

THE TIMES

TOMORROW

Polar...
John Hennessy and David Miller report from Sarajevo on the start of the Winter Olympics

...regions
Jock Bruce-Gardyne on Japanese cars and regional aid

A novel...
Spectrum walks A Curious Street - from Iowa City all the way to Catford



...approach...
George Walden advocates a quieter approach to Moscow

...to work
Wednesday Page on the plight of Britain's 900,000 unemployed women

Housing benefit cut reduced

The Government appeared to have headed off a large-scale backbench revolt by reducing its planned cut in housing benefit in April. After pressure from MPs, local authorities and the Government's Social Services Advisory Committee the original £230m cut will be reduced by £30m to £200m.

French blockade

French farmers, angered by falling meat prices, occupied Channel ports to blockade British lorries carrying beef or lamb.

Suspects taped

A two-year trial in the use of tape recorders to monitor the interrogation of suspects has begun at two London police stations.

Lord Byers dies

Lord Byers, Liberal leader in the Lords, who died yesterday after a heart attack. He was 68 and had been one of the Liberals' chief election strategists.

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Kohl in trouble

Chancellor Kohl's political future is in doubt after the failure of his Israel visit and the aftermath of the Kieling scandal.

Prices rise

Manufacturing prices rose by 0.6 per cent last month and, according to official figures yesterday, spending in shops for December reached a record.

Computer Horizons

Computers and telecommunications have become so interdependent that a new science has emerged: information technology. Computer Horizons responds to the need for the consumer, the industrialist and financier to be kept informed of every development. Cable, satellite, computers, telecommunications, microelectronics, television, robots and video are all monitored by the expanding Computer Horizons - today on pages 19 and 20.

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Letters: On unemployment, from the Dean of St Paul's; detente, from Mr and Mrs P Thompson; Soviet detente, from Lord Annan and others. Leading articles: Lebanon: electoral reform.

Features, pages 10, 12, 14: Bernard Levin campaigns for the political fringe; conflicting advice on Central America for Mr Reagan; Robin Cook and Roger Scruton take opposing sides in the Cheltenham trade union controversy; Spectrum: The Winter Olympics; Fashion: the Jaeger comeback.

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Muslims and Druze combine to capture half Beirut

Lebanon lurched closer to civil war yesterday as Muslim and Druze militiamen, covered by an intense barrage, captured the western half of Beirut.

In London, Mr Richard Luce, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, told MPs that Britain had no intention of withdrawing its contingent "precipitately".

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

Shia Muslim and Druze militiamen responded to President Amin Gemayel's call for national unity yesterday by storming into west Beirut, capturing half the city and demanding Mr Gemayel's resignation in return for an end to Lebanon's latest civil war.

In one swift and savage assault, they threw both America's and Israel's policy in Lebanon into turmoil. In only one and a half hours, hundreds of gunmen blasted Lebanese troops out of the Muslim sector of the capital, and began a ferocious bombardment of the Christian eastern quarter with missiles and shells, isolating American, French and Italian troops of the multinational force and setting the country on the road to partition.

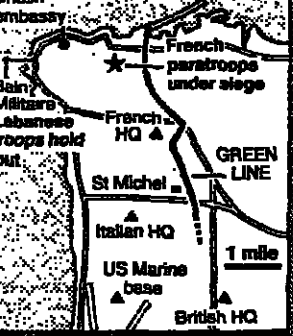
President Gemayel's own future must now be in as much doubt as that of his broken country. Unless he can hold his Government army together or persuade President Reagan to give substantial military support to his soldiers, it is difficult to see how he can survive. It was Mr Reagan who said in his state of the Union message last month that America was "making progress" in Lebanon, but the chaos of Beirut yesterday has turned his statement into a mockery.

Many Lebanese soldiers simply downed their weapons and fled when the gunmen came onto the streets. Others dived into apartment blocks to change into civilian clothes. A few brave stayed on to defend their surrounded sand-bagged emplacements and were overwhelmed with a murderous barrage of rockets and shells.

As the Muslim militiamen brought their Grad missile launchers into the west of the city last night, huge explosions could be heard coming from the Christian east of the city, while sniper fire cracked around the deserted streets.

In fighting along the seaford, several shells burst into blocks

of flats, hurling their inhabitants in pieces into the street while hooded gunmen, firing rocket launchers, stormed army positions near the ruins of Spinney's Supermarket. Militiamen were meanwhile setting up mortars around the southern entrance to the port. Thus the old front line of the 1975-76



British HQ
US Marine base
French HQ
Green Line
Muslims hold out
Druze hold out
1 mile

From Mr Gemayel's palace at Baabda came only silence, save for a statement by his security adviser who told correspondents that he was trying to find opposition politicians to serve in a new coalition government. "It is the moment of truth," he said solemnly. Mr Nabih Berri, the leader of the Shia Muslim "Amal" militia, however, was in no mood for such entreaties. Only Mr Gemayel's resignation would now end the fighting, he declared.

What must have been evident to Mr Gemayel during the day was the coordinated nature of the assault on west Beirut. Only a day after Mr Berri had called on Shia Muslim soldiers not to fight, the militias cooperated - Shia and Druze together, the latter with banners portraying the symbol of Walid Jumblat's Progressive Socialist Party - in many of the attacks on the army.

Druze artillery in the Syrian-occupied hills of the Metn opened fire into the east of the capital at the same time. The Government in Beirut - or what is left of the Government now that the Muslim ministers have resigned - believe that Syria has orchestrated the battles. The militia say this is untrue. But the Americans are sure to detect the hand of Damascus in the anarchy that broke out yesterday.

On Sunday night, Mr Gemayel had offered opposition leaders a place in a new Cabinet and suggested that the unofficial peace treaty with Israel might be terminated after his concessions came too late.

In the centre of west Beirut, French paratroopers of the multinational force stayed behind their massive earth fortifications.

British troops to remain despite deepening crisis

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

Mr Richard Luce, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, told MPs yesterday that the Government had no intention of withdrawing the British contingent from Lebanon.

He said in reply to an emergency Commons question from Mr Tony Marlow, Conservative MP for Northampton, that collective consultation with multinational force partners would keep the situation under close review.

But he added: "We do not intend to withdraw our contingent precipitately." Whichall sources said that no significant should be read into the word "precipitately". It was said that Britain was nowhere near a pull-out.

Mr Denis Healey, the shadow spokesman, urged Mr Luce to force the pace of an American withdrawal. The Minister replied that the Government did not underestimate the gravity of the problems.

The Minister wanted to assure Mr Healey that the force partners were weighing up the implications of what was

happening very carefully, and he volunteered that it was a very difficult balance to strike. But the judgment would have to rest on the prospects for reconciliation, full sovereignty and stability.

Replying to a Conservative backbench critic, Sir Anthony

Syria blamed

President Reagan blamed Syria for encouraging the new outbreak of fighting and called on the Damascus Government to end the violence. He also said the US commitment to Lebanon remained unwavering.

Kershaw, chairman of the all-party Select Committee on Foreign Affairs, who asked why the British troops were being exposed to continuing danger, the Minister said that it would not be right to take a rapid and panic decision.

"We have to judge calmly and rationally whether or not we can continue to make a

constructive contribution", he said.

It was reported last night that there had been no direct contact between the Prime Minister and the President after the Beirut Cabinet resignation.

WASHINGTON: The Reagan Administration, beleaguered in Congress over its Beirut entanglement and desperate to save the Gemayel government from collapse, described the new crisis in Lebanon yesterday as an "opportunity". (Christopher Thomas writes)

Senior American officials are working around the clock in tandem with diplomats in the Middle East to help President Gemayel form a new Government. The Administration is strongly urging him to include, for the first time, key representatives from opposition Lebanese factions.

The White House said: "We hope he will quickly be able to form a responsible, broadly representative government

of the Challenger astronauts will make space history by walking in space unattached to their vehicle, Bill Johnston writes.

The experiments, which will be repeated on Thursday beginning an hour earlier, are designed to test the manoeuvrability of the astronauts in a specially made suit and backpack and the flexibility of a platform on which future

astronauts will stand to erect structures in space.

One astronaut at a time will test his equipment in the cargo bay of the shuttle but tethered to the craft for safety. After that two experiments in free flight will take place when the astronaut will walk unattached in space for 150 ft and 300 ft from the craft.

The second part of the experiment requires the astronauts to test a platform which will be attached to a 50 ft articulated arm made of Boron Epoxy Composite covered with a heat-shielding blanket.

The astronaut will have his feet fixed to the platform which will be placed in the "hand" of the robotic arm.

The entire programme of tests today and on Thursday is due to take about five hours and will not be affected by the loss of the Western Union satellite.

The loss of the satellite brings to over \$300m the total insurance value of spacecraft lost in the past seven years.

About 50 per cent has been covered by the London insurance market.



Moving freely through the streets, militiamen fire at Government positions

Vauxhall tops BL on new car sales table

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Vauxhall continued its seemingly inexorable rise through the ranks of the British new car market in January overtaking BL for the first time in the monthly sales figures.

With 18.68 per cent of the domestic market, Vauxhall demonstrated that its Cavalier model, launched in the summer of 1981 and others like the Astra, are an unstoppable force at the moment. The Cavalier was the second best selling car last month with 13,720 registrations.

Vauxhall's popularity, particularly in the all-important fleet car sector, has been largely at the expense of Ford, whose market share last month dipped to 28.1 per cent compared with 33.87 per cent a year earlier.

The Cavalier and the Ford Sierra (11,932 sales last month) are the leading contenders in the fleet market.

They are sandwiched in the best-sellers list by the Ford Escort, still the country's favourite car with January sales of 16,577 and the BL Metro (11,115). Total car sales last month were 161,844.

The Vauxhall success, which includes Opel cars imported from West Germany and the new Nova from Spain, has eclipsed the more sedate rise of BL. Mr David Lohr, Vauxhall's director of marketing, said the 26 per cent increase over last January's sales figures confirmed company forecasts that it would sell 300,000 cars in Britain this year.

In the boom conditions of last year, when private buyers were responsible for the 15 per cent increase in total sales, BL's market share rose to 18.6 per cent from 17.8 per cent in 1982 and the trend was maintained in January with the company's penetration going up from 16.9 per cent a year ago to 17.98 per cent.

Cabinet weakened by fear of leaks

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Senior ministers are blaming a fear of leaks for the fact that more and more important government decisions, including the ban on trade union membership at the Cheltenham communications headquarters, are being taken outside the Cabinet.

Ministers who were not party to the Cheltenham decision believe that what they acknowledge has been a failure in the Government's presentation of its case could have been avoided if their colleagues with experience of security and labour relations had been consulted.

They believe that the principle of collective Cabinet responsibility is being strained because decisions are being taken not only outside the Cabinet, but even outside Cabinet committees.

That, it is said, makes it very difficult for ministers to speak out publicly in favour of decisions on which they were not consulted and of whose possible wider ramifications they are unaware.

The GCHQ decision was taken initially by Mrs Margaret Thatcher, Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, and Mr

Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence. It is understood that a few other ministers, including Lord Whitelaw, who is in charge of presenting government policies, and Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Employment, were involved later.

But the first most Cabinet ministers knew was when Sir Geoffrey announced the decision in the Commons on January 25.

Given the issue's sensitivity and the recent spate of leaks to newspapers of internal Cabinet documents, Sir Geoffrey's colleagues fully understand, and sympathise with his decision not to circulate papers on his impending announcement.

But they wish, in retrospect, that he had made an oral presentation of the issues to the Cabinet, enabling other senior members to offer advice on the way it should be handled and at least to put themselves in a better position to defend it.

It is recalled by Cabinet ministers who served in the 1970-74 Heath government that all Cabinet committee decisions, even non-controversial ones, were reported to the

Continued on back page, col 1

Coal stocks 'record' despite ban

By David Young

Coal stocks at Britain's power stations are at a new record, with two million tons more in store than at the same time last year, according to Sir Walter Marshall, chairman of the Central Electricity Generating Board.

He told the Coal Industry Society yesterday that so far the only effect of the miners' overtime ban was a reduction in the number of calls from National Coal Board salesmen.

Sir Walter said that the CEBG remained committed to coal. "At Drax we are completing the construction of the largest coal-fired power station in Europe, capable of burning around 10 million tonnes of a coal a year, the current annual output of some 20,000 miners.

The main threat to jobs in the coal industry was not nuclear power, but old uneconomical pits. The number of new nuclear power stations planned could be "counted on one hand".

Sir Walter said: "The CEBG has consistently supported the coal board in its policy of closing loss-making pits and opening new ones.

"The concentration of production on economic pits is essential for the long-term viability of the coal board and the electricity supply industry; it is also in the best interests of the miners."

The Sizewell orders will be criticized by the anti-nuclear lobby as preempting the inquiry into the project and the fast-breeder deal as an extension of the present programme.

Stronger guard on Indian envoys

By Craig Seton

Extra protection for Indian diplomats in Britain was ordered yesterday as police hunted the killers of Mr Ravindra Mhatre, the Assistant Commissioner in Birmingham who was shot within 48 hours of being abducted in the street.

Shortly after the discovery of his body in a farm drive at Sapcote, near Hinckley, Leicestershire, on Sunday night, Mrs Indira Gandhi, India's Prime Minister, condemned his murder as "a cowardly and brutal outrage" while in the House of Commons yesterday Mr Leon Brittan, Home Secretary, announced "enhanced protection" for the diplomats.

Indian diplomatic missions throughout the world were also alerted to the dangers posed by the so-called Kashmir Liberation Army (KLA), the previously unknown group thought to have been responsible for Mr Mhatre's death after he was bundled into a car close to home in Bartley Green, Birmingham, on Friday night.

Mr Mhatre was shot twice - once in the head and once in the body - and he was killed some time on Sunday.

When he was found his spectacles and a plastic lunchbox were missing. Last night police were interviewing a woman who witnessed his abduction.

West Midlands police and forces elsewhere in Britain interviewed Kashmiris in big cities as speculation increased about whether the killers were committed and cold-blooded terrorists or panic-stricken amateurs seeking the political

in Birmingham, where there are an estimated 15,000 Kashmiris. Mr Zubair Ansari, secretary general of the Kashmir Liberation Front, said he had been contacted twice by kidnappers about their demands for £1m and the names of Kashmiri prisoners in India.

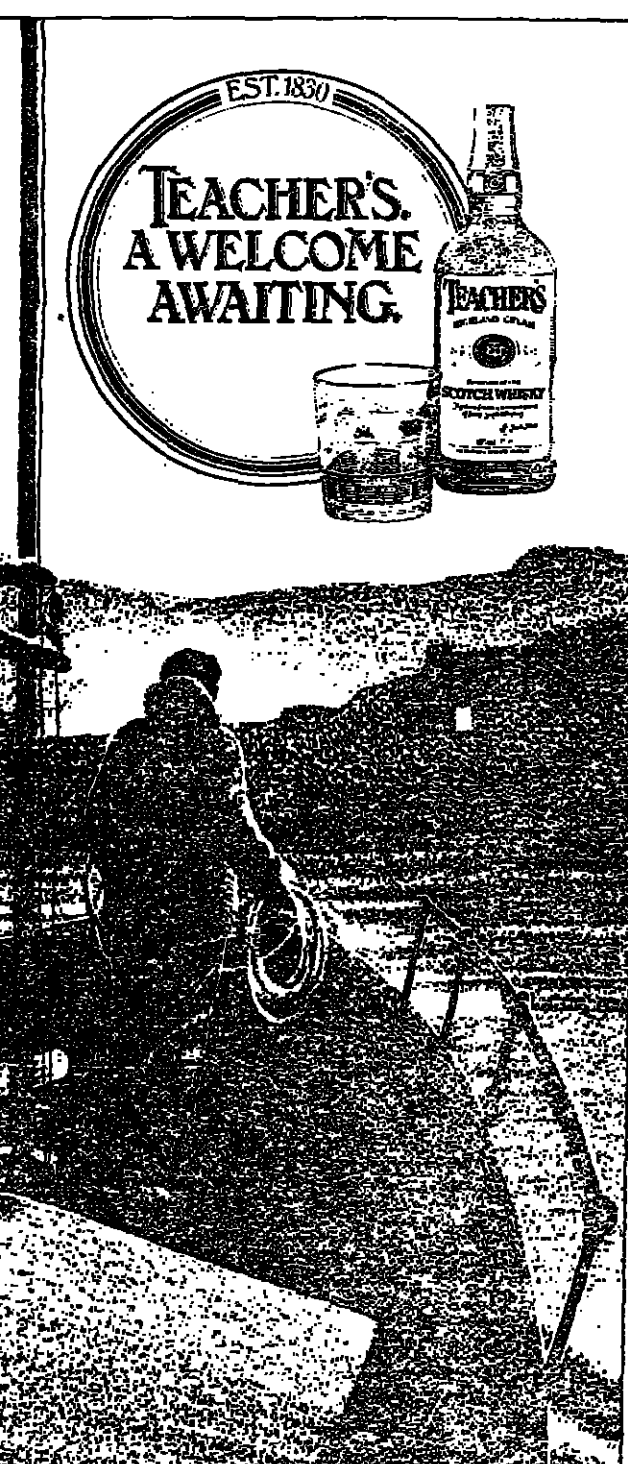
Police are understood to have moved into Mr Ansari's area after the kidnappers' first contact and were able to tape-record at least two more calls.

The swiftness of the killing of Mr Mhatra a quietly spoken and mild-mannered man who had been in Birmingham for 18 months, shocked detectives and leaders of the West Midlands Indian community.

Mr Ansari said on Radio 4 yesterday that he had pleaded with the kidnappers for more time - five hours - but they had given him only three, and at 10pm on Saturday he had another three and was told in a tough and aggressive manner: "It looks as if you people have not taken it seriously. Now you will have to see and face the consequences."

Yesterday Dr V. A. Seyid Mohammed, Indian High Commissioner in Britain,

Continued on back page, col 6



Fowler heads off revolt by reducing planned housing benefit cuts

By Nicholas Thomas and Philip Webster

The Government appeared last night to have headed off a large-scale backbench revolt by reducing by between £30m and £40m its planned cut in housing benefits in April.

Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, who was forced by pressure from MPs, local authorities, and the Government's Social Services Advisory Committee to modify the original proposal for a £230m cut in the scheme, said the cut would now be between £190m and £200m this year, with a review to be set up under an independent chairman of the scheme's structure, scope and administration.

The main burden of the changes, however, is to postpone many of them until November, and the reduction from the original cut of £230m will be only £15m next year.

The reduction in the cuts is to be offset by postponing a promised increase in April of £1 in the housing benefit children's needs allowance, which will save about £10m, with the remainder of the saving coming from other parts of the social security system and the Government's contingency reserve.

Last night it seemed that the Government had done enough to avert the threat of a big revolt. But Mr Andrew Bowden, Conservative MP for Brighton and co-chairman of the all-party parliamentary group for pensioners said that more than one million pen-

sioners would still be among the 2.2 million recipients of housing benefit who would lose.

"It is very unlikely that I will vote for the regulations. It is a question of whether I abstain or vote against."

The changes were condemned as "minimal" by Age Concern, as only a "minor amelioration" by Mr Michael Meacher, Labour's spokesman on social services, and as "largely cosmetic" by Shac, the London Housing Aid Centre.

Under the concessions announced yesterday only two changes will come into effect on April 1. The "tapers" - the amount benefit is reduced for each £1 of extra income - will increase from 21p to 26p for rent and from 7p to 9p for rates; the original proposal was to increase the tapers to 31p and 9p respectively. In November, however, the taper for rent will increase by another 3p to 29p.

Also in April the amount by which benefit will be reduced for households with a non-dependent aged 18 or over will rise from £5.55 to £8.20, as originally proposed.

The Government, however, has postponed until November proposals to make similar deductions of £3.10 for 16 to 17-year-olds, and these will no longer apply to those in receipt of non-contributory invalidity pension.

Proposals not to pay housing benefit if it amounts to less than £1 for rent and 50p for rates

have been modified. Those below the needs allowance - about 40,000 of the poorest families affected by the cut - will now continue to receive the present minimum payments of 20p and 10p; from November the minimum payment for rent assistance will be set at 50p instead of the £1 originally proposed.

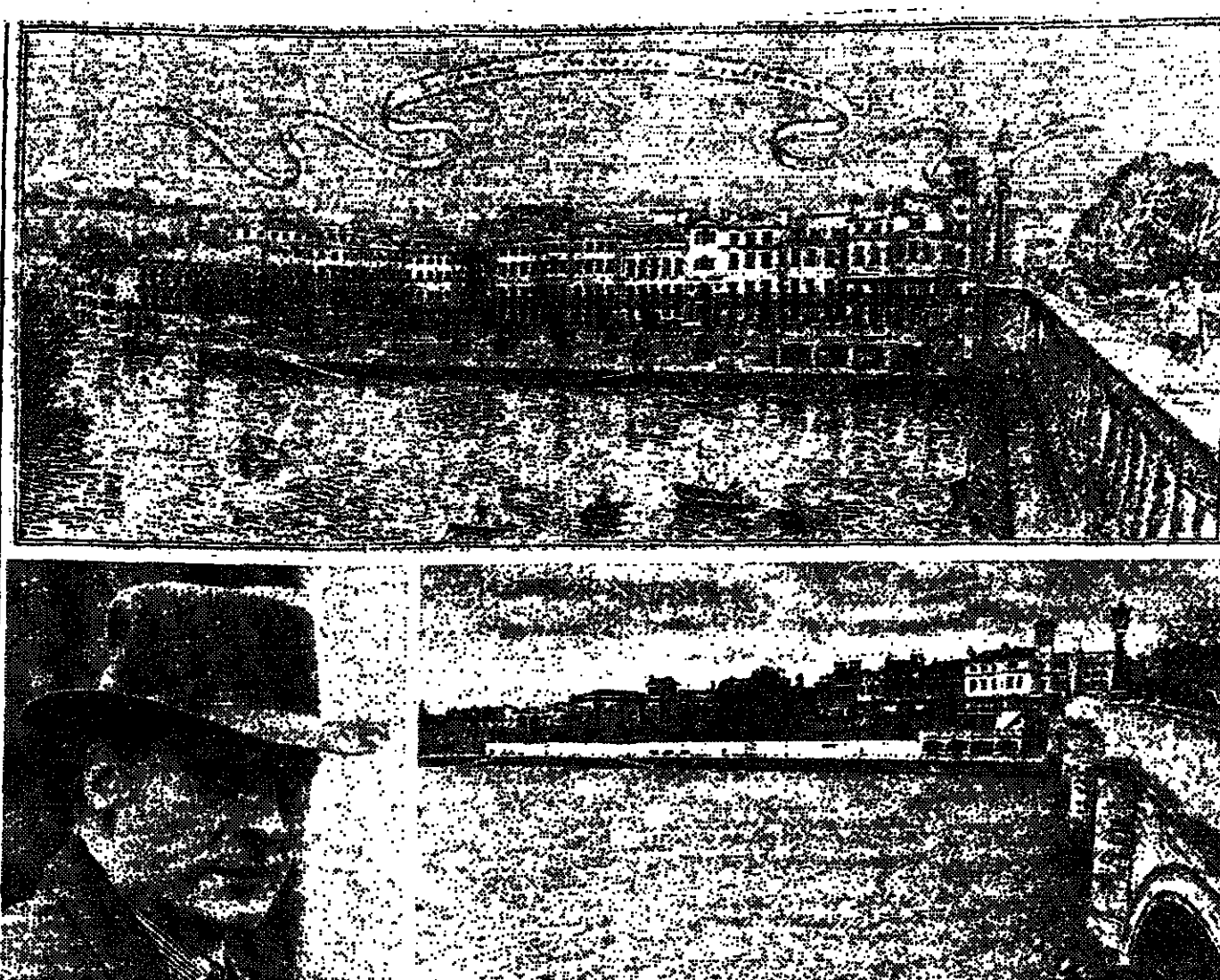
Plans to increase the thresholds at which higher rate of housing benefit can be paid in high rent areas have also been postponed until November.

Mr Fowler said that the changes would mean that the average loss in April will fall from 96p to 70p, with the average loss for pensioners falling from 80p to 59p.

The Government has, however, yet to meet the recommendation in the advisory committee's report, published yesterday, and fiercely critical of the proposed £230m cut, that no one should lose more than £2 a week from the changes.

Shac said last night that a single pensioner with an income of £77 a week, and rent rates of £23 a week, would lose £2.33 a week from April, and £3.32 from November.

A family with one child at school and one 17-year-old, with an income of £135 a week, paying £33 in rent and rates, would lose £2.95 a week from April and £7.42 a week from November - a reduction of only 58p on the original proposals.



Traditional lines: An artist's impression (top) of the Thames south bank plan at Richmond, Mr Quinlan Terry (above right) is the architect who produced a neo-classical design for a twentieth-century suburb, seen (above right) from the bridge.

Classical revival proposed for riverside

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

Richmond upon Thames Council will decide next month whether to approve a development scheme for a spectacular bridge which could herald a classical revival at the expense of modern architecture.

It is a £20m development plan for offices, shops and flats on a 3½ acre site on the south bank of the river by Richmond Bridge which would be a classical revival at the expense of modern architecture.

The scheme is the work of Mr Quinlan Terry, of Erit and Terry, a small firm which designs neo-classical buildings, appointed by Haslemere Estates.

Haslemere Estates and the Pension Fund Property Unity

Trust have agreed to take over the development of the site from the English Property Corporation, whose modern development had been approved by the council.

In a public consultation exercise by the council, Haslemere's proposal - the Terry design - was easily the more popular, gaining 846 votes compared with 180 for the English Property Corporation's modern designs.

It is likely that the council will take a final decision on the site's future on March 6.

Mr Terry's scheme includes eight separate office buildings ranging in size from 3,500 sq ft to about 24,000 sq ft, and two restaurants looking on to the river.

The old Castle Hotel, an

early Victorian building, would be replaced by a new building based on an eighteenth-century design by Sir William Chambers for George II. The architect believes this is more in keeping with the rest of the scheme and the Richmond environment.

Mr Terry, who sees himself as a twentieth-century classicist, has been described as perhaps the last classical architect.

He says: "I don't think I will be the last. I believe it could easily catch on and architecture could go back to its traditional styles. It is a commonsense way of building."

"Modern architecture has not resulted in a way of building which produces a permanent fabric, nor resulted

in way of building which produces a permanent fabric, nor is it pleasing to the eye. I believe I have much more in common with the man in the street and with builder than with the architect."

He said of the Richmond Bridge area: "Through my rose-coloured spectacles it reminded me of Venice."

He is happy to keep the Gothic town hall, acknowledging that it was built by a "competent" architect.

This is Mr Terry's biggest project, bigger than a Georgian development in Soho on which he is now working.

His work has always been treated with suspicion by the establishment, but there are signs that his Richmond plans are having an effect.

Six points for change in school teaching

By Lucy Hodges

Education Correspondent
Changes in content are to be sought in the teaching of school subjects such as economic understanding, awareness of rights and responsibilities under the law, and primary school mathematics.

Yesterday Professor Roger Blin-Stoyle explained that the new School Curriculum Development Committee, of which he is chairman, would be carrying out the wishes of Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education, who had said there was a need for "breadth, balance and cohesion".

The committee, which performs some of the functions of the defunct Schools Council spent more than 12 hours at the weekend deciding six starting points for early action. These included the development of a core curriculum, and "life skills" - education for employment and leisure.

The committee of 22, which includes educationists, local authority representatives, advisers, head teachers, three representatives from industry and representatives from higher and further education, also decided that communication skills needed reform.

Sir Keith has told the committee last week that specific priorities might include oral work and reasoning skills, the development of writing and number concepts in younger children, means of making the curriculum more practical, and topic work in primary schools.

The latter two were not mentioned by the committee in its announcement.

Professor Blin-Stoyle said the committee would consult local authorities about the priorities, and would concentrate for the rest of the year on producing firm proposals for work to be initiated.

Asked for an example, he said much more could be done to encourage the use of calculators in primary schools, as advocated by Sir Wilfrid Cockcroft in his report on mathematics teaching.

He said he hoped there would not be problems with the National Union of Teachers, the biggest teachers' union, which refused to nominate members for the committee.

Cambridge claims record

Cambridge University last night celebrated 400 years of publishing, a record which it claims gives it the oldest university press in the world.

A spokesman for Cambridge University Press claimed that the printer Mr Thomas Thomas started publishing in 1584, a year before Oxford published its first book.

While Oxford University Press has its famous dictionaries, Cambridge distinguished itself particularly for its historical works, particularly the New Cambridge Modern History.

The anniversary celebration was attended last night by the Duke of Edinburgh, as Chancellor, and Prince Edward.

BBC faces libel action by MPs

Two Conservative MPs, Mr Neil Hamilton (Tatton) and Mr Gerald Howarth (Cannock and Burntwood) are suing the BBC for an alleged libel over the *Panorama* programme *Maggie's Militant Tendency*, broadcast on January 30.

Their lawyers yesterday obtained High Court writs against the programme's editor, Mr Peter Ibbotson, its producer, Mr James Hagan and the presenter Mr Fred Emery, as well as Mr Philip M. Pedley, national chairman of the Young Conservatives.

Print pay offer

Leaders of 30,000 printworkers on national newspapers in London and Manchester yesterday said they would consider an increased pay offer of 4½ per cent from the Newspaper Publishers' Association.

GCHQ unions coin a defiant slogan

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

Civil Service unions last night launched the second phase of their fight against government plans to ban unions at GCHQ with the slogan "No, Prime Minister."

Thousands of leaflets and badges carrying that message, along with a statement that "free unions cannot be bought", will be distributed to civil servants this week and at meetings at the out-stations of GCHQ.

The unions are awaiting a response to their proposals given to Mrs Thatcher last week to head off the ban. Although Whitehall sources indicated that she might offer to meet them later this week union officials are determined to press ahead with the campaign.

Meetings will be held at at least eight of the stations which supply data to GCHQ at Cheltenham over the next seven days. Union members will be urged by national officials not to sign away their membership for the £1,000 offered by the government.

Union activists at Cheltenham drew up plans yesterday to win support from residents and organize a petition.

Members of the main policy committee of the Council of Civil Service Unions meet today to review tactics.

A special meeting of the TUC's finance and general purpose committee, will hear a report tomorrow from Civil Service union leaders. They are eagerly awaiting an appearance by Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, before a Commons select committee on Wednesday, when he is expected to receive a hostile reception, particularly from Labour members.

The unions expect some publicity counter-offensive from the Government this week.

The unions also took comments by Sir Brian Tovey, a former director of GCHQ, over the past two days to be confirmation of their claim that the reason for the Government's move against them had been pressure from US intelligence agencies.

Forestry Commission defends land sales

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

The Forestry Commission yesterday denied that the sale of its land to private buyers would endanger the survival of ancient woodlands and sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs).

Friends of the Earth claimed at the weekend that the commission's plans to dispose of nearly 170,000 acres of woodland, worth about £85m, by 1986 were a scandal.

Voluntary conservation groups who wished to acquire the woods were being "gazumped" by commercial forestry interests, which intended to clear them or convert them into plantations to attract tax concessions, the group said.

The Countryside Commission had felt unable to give financial help to voluntary organizations bidding for woods which came on the market.

But the Forestry Commission pointed out yesterday that as it was controlling authority responsible for issuing felling licences it was in a position to prevent purchases from doing as they liked with the land they acquired.

When woodlands put up for sale were advertised as "scheduled for felling", that was because the trees were mature. But that did not automatically mean the land could be converted to agriculture or replanted with conifers.

Moves to rescue Welsh hills

From Tim Jones

A four-year study by the Welsh Development Agency could provide Wales with a low cost way of tackling the ravages of the industrial revolution.

The agency's land reclamation department hopes that the study will help to turn hundreds of derelict sites into nature reserves which will not require expensive maintenance.

There are 35,000 acres of scarred land spoiling the landscape between Cardiff in the south and Colwyn Bay in the north, the legacy of a time when planning controls did not exist to constrain the activities of ironmasters and coal kings.

The study is being conducted by Professor A. D. Bradshaw of Liverpool University and the Robinson, Jones partnership of Blackwood, Gwent, at a cost of £80,000. It is designed to identify plants that can be introduced to the sites and left alone to colonize naturally.

The research is complicated by the fact that sites can have hugely different conditions. Flora which clings and breeds naturally on one coal tip may fail to gain a foothold on another across the valley floor.

At present most land reclamation projects involve expensive civil engineering and after clearance and landscaping have to be maintained. There are more than one thousand coal tips to be tackled and at least five hundred relics of other mining operations.

The department's present budget does not allow for clearance using traditional engineering methods. The agency hopes that the study will enable it to improve the landscape at a fraction of the present costs.

Particular hopes are being attached to the study because of fears that the agency's budget for land reclamation is about to be reduced drastically by government cuts from the present level of £1.3m a year.

The department is also active in research to remove the danger from old mines. It has instigated the development of new strains of grass which are beginning to minimize the danger from old lead workings which threatened to poison agricultural land and endanger health.

First blows struck in by-election

The leading contenders in the Chesterfield by-election exchanged their first verbal blows yesterday, almost before the ink had dried on the parliamentary writ naming March 1 as polling day.

Labour's Mr Wedgwood Benn (bottom right) was accused by the Conservative Mr Nicholas Bourne (centre) of not having the interests of the town at heart and the Liberal MP Clement Freud, speaking on behalf of the Alliance candidate, Mr Max Payne (top), a polytechnic lecturer aged 54, said the Tories secretly hoped for a Benn victory that would do them more good than one more seat in Parliament.

Mr Bourne, a company secretary aged 32, said: "That is ridiculous. Our interest is in this country holding its head high." If Mr Benn was, people abroad would wonder what sort of country this has become."

Mr Bourne said the big issue would be what sort of person Chesterfield wanted to represent it. "Will they want someone just arrived in town at the first opportunity to get back into Parliament, or will they ask who has the interests of the town at heart?"

But Mr Benn defending a Labour majority of 7,763, shrugged off suggestions that as an "in-comer" to the town he might find the campaign difficult.

He said: "None of the other candidates was born in the town." He would fight purely on policies. "I have never referred in my life to other candidates by name and I shall not do so in this campaign."

Mr Benn, aged 53, the former MP for Bristol East, intends to "meet the people", holding fewer press conferences than the others. Today he will go down Arkwright colliery just outside Chesterfield at the invitation of the National Union of Mineworkers. Yesterday he shared a press conference with the union's president, Mr Arthur Scargill.

Most leading politicians of all three parties are booked to visit the town during the four-week campaign.

Sale room

Railway furniture fetches £22,800

By Hoon Mallalieu

The railway trucks and carriages that enjoyed a second life as farm outbuildings are rapidly disappearing from the countryside, their skeletons covered by briars and nettles.

One such carriage, on a farm in south Wales, was investigated recently by a solicitor and a sale room expert who found inside various pieces of furniture covered with mould.

The contents were first taken to the comparative shelter of an open cowshed for inspection, and then taken to Phillips in London where three pieces were sold for a total of £22,800 yesterday. Sadly the couple who owned the farm died before the discovery.

The highest price was £18,000 paid for an early nineteenth century mahogany extending dining table with four supports, three extra leaves and an overall length of 108 (estimate £5,000 to £6,000).

The other pieces were a nineteenth century carved oak centre table, which was probably Austrian, which sold for £2,900 (estimate £1,200 to £1,500); and a George III mahogany architect's table which made £1,900 (estimate £1,200 to £1,500). The furniture sale produced a total of £110,416 with 4 per cent bought in.



Tax rises have left some worse off

By Frances Williams, Economics Correspondent

The steep increase in taxes since 1979 when the Conservatives were elected to power has left the families of the lowest paid little better off and in some cases worse off than they were five years ago, the Treasury admitted yesterday.

In reply to a parliamentary question from Mr Jeffrey Rooker, Labour MP for Birmingham, Perry Bar, the Treasury said that after adjusting for inflation take-home pay for single people and married couples with earnings in the bottom tenth of the scale were slightly lower in April last year than five years earlier.

For couples with children, the increase during that time was less than 2 per cent. The figures do not take account of means-tested social security benefits they might be entitled to, but they do include child benefit.

That marks a strong contrast with average and above average wage earners who, after a dip between 1980 and 1982, are now substantially better off than five years ago. Real take-home pay for a single person on average earnings has increased by nearly 5 per cent, for a married couple by nearly 4 per cent, and for couples with children by 3½ per cent.

However, for income earners in the top 10 per cent, real take-home pay has surged by 13 per cent or more, reflecting the big cuts in higher rates of tax in Sir Geoffrey Howe's first Budget in 1979.

Average earnings have far outpaced inflation and tax increases during the past year. That may have helped to improve the position of the worst paid, but those on higher earnings may have done even better.

Star rebuff increases party rift

By Rupert Morris

The power struggle within the Communist Party of Great Britain increased yesterday after its executive rebuffed a stunning rebuff from the People's Press Printing Society, the cooperative which owns the *Morning Star*, Britain's only Communist daily newspaper.

In a statement published in yesterday's *Morning Star*, the society unequivocally rejected the executive's demand for a new editor.

The executive, which is dominated by Eurocommunist, wants to ally itself more closely with other European leftist movements and has embarked on a campaign against members it perceives as being unduly pro-Soviet or Stalinist. Mr Tony Chater and Mr David Whitfield, editor and deputy editor of the *Morning Star*, are prime targets.

The party's views in the past have coincided with those of the *Morning Star*.

Cage bird imports banned

By John Young

The Government last night banned the import of all cage birds, from midnight, because of outbreaks of Newcastle Disease at quarantine stations in north London and Essex.

Thousands of birds, mostly budgerigars, canaries and parrots, have been slaughtered as a precaution. A possible third outbreak, in Southampton, was being investigated yesterday.

The disease, a form of fowl pest, is indigenous to many parts of the world, including continental Europe. The risk of its return to Britain was used until last year to justify a ban on all poultry imports, which was lifted only on the insistence of the European Council.

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"He just got a Telemesssage."

TELECOM

Police tape questioning of suspects in two-year experiment

By Stewart Tendler Crime Reporter

A Home Office field trial in the use of tape recordings to monitor the interrogation of suspects began yesterday at two London police stations and the headquarters of the fraud squad. Other trials will start soon in Leicester, South Tyneside, the Wirral and Winchester.

The Government has introduced the principle of tape recording in the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill, which is going through its committee stage. The two-year trials will identify any problems in a system designed to overcome disputes over "verbal" police notes of interviews.

Yesterday the equipment was demonstrated to the press at a London police station in south London. The recording will be done in two interview rooms off the charge room. Red lights marked "recording" warn that an interview is under way inside, where recording decks each holding two tapes have been installed.

Deputy Assistant Commissioner James Sewell, who sat on the Home Office committee setting up the trials, said that when an interview begins two sealed tape cassettes

are unwrapped in front of the interviewee.

The suspect is given a written statement of his rights and the officer dictates into the recorder the time, place, and people present for the interview. The tapes each run to 45 minutes and when the interview is complete one is sealed for six years. That tape may be used in court if there are disputes over evidence.

The other tape is used to make up notes for submission to the courts and to make further copies for the suspect and his solicitor.

Mr Sewell said the recorders had no erase button and the machines timed the tapes.

He said that if a suspect objected to being taped then the objection would be recorded. If a suspect made an admission on the way to the station and then denied it the interviewing policeman would put it on tape that he had changed what he had said. The jury would still have to decide between the two versions.

In cases where the suspect falsely suggested on the tape that he was being struck the interviewing officer would stop

the tape, call in his superior and then start again. The suspect could be asked if he wished to make a complaint or see a doctor.

Mr Sewell said 800 officers had been trained in the use of the recorders, which have also been installed at Holborn police station. In recent years, Mr Sewell, a special form for taking down contemporaneous notes of interviews had removed many of the problems of the past. The recorders would protect both police and public from the "verbal syndrome".

The field trials would be examined by local steering committees chaired by a judge and composed of groups working in the courts.

Mr Larry Gostin, general secretary of the National Council for Civil Liberties, said the tape-recording trials were welcome but there was a risk that more police questioning would take place outside the police station. That had happened in some Scottish forces where recording had been used.

Confessions should be ruled invalid unless they were made with a tape recording.



Son's pride: Mark McVicker, aged 11, at US Navy Headquarters in London yesterday.

Boy gets father's Purple Heart

A British schoolboy yesterday took possession of a Purple Heart awarded posthumously to his American father who was killed, with 240 others, in the suicide bombing of the Marine headquarters in Beirut last October (Tony Samstag writes). The ceremony was held at the US Navy's European headquarters in Grosvenor Square, London.

Mark McVicker, aged 11, is the son of Navy Hospital Corpsman Second Class George N. McVicker, whose thirty-sixth birthday it would have been. The boy lives with his British mother in Reading and holds dual nationality. Mrs McVicker and her husband were divorced in 1977.

The Purple Heart was instituted by General George Washington when he was Commander-in-Chief of the American army during the war of independence. Presenting the award, Vice-Admiral M. Staser Holcomb, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the US Naval Forces, Europe, and the senior ranking US Navy officer in Britain, said that McVicker was part of "a long history of service and sacrifice".

He and all the members of the multinational peacekeeping force had gone to Beirut "not to fight a war, but to try to create conditions for peace and to prevent war from ravaging Lebanon". (Photograph: Barry Beattie).

Food prices 'kept high by British'

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent
Mr Christopher Tugendhat, vice-president of the European Commission, yesterday accused the British Government of deliberately keeping food prices artificially high.

He said that for nearly four years it had applied so-called positive monetary compensation amounts (MCA's) to cushion farmers against the effect of the strong pound.

"In everyday terms this means that prices paid by processors, and ultimately consumers, have been higher, generally by at least 5 per cent and often by much more, than the Community level," he claimed.

"This is tantamount to an additional tax which is in no way imposed on the United Kingdom by the Community. It is a self-imposed food tax."

British farmers are strongly resisting Commission proposals that the Government should revalue the Green Pound.

However, Mr Tugendhat, addressing a food processing awards ceremony in London, said there was nothing discriminatory in the proposals.

He added: "What does surprise me is the eerie silence of leading politicians from those governments who are on record as deploring the excesses of the common agricultural policy and urging the need for lower prices in order to cut costs."

Bachelor's singing 'like a drowning rat'

The singing of John Stokes, a member of The Bachelors pop group, had become so bad that an expert had likened it to "the voice of a drowning rat, with an uncontrollable vibrato". Mr Justice Gibson was told in the High Court in London yesterday. Last November, Dec and Con Cluskey, the other group members, decided to dismiss Mr Stokes, aged 47, who had

been with The Bachelors since they were formed more than 20 years ago.

Mr Stokes is seeking a temporary court order stopping the brothers performing as The Bachelors without him and the appointment of a receiver and manager of The Bachelors Ltd until the dispute is settled.

Dec and Con Cluskey have said that Mr Stokes's voice had

to overdubbed without his knowledge on recordings of *I Wouldn't Trade Her for the World and Ramona*.

They also accused him of reading music in front of audiences.

But Mr Stokes told the court that his voice had not been the subject of constant complaint or that it had been overdubbed. The hearing continues today.

Cut alcohol, would-be mothers told

By Nicholas Timmins

Alcohol is dangerous for women seeking to become pregnant and should be abandoned or reduced to one or two drinks a day at most, according to a British Medical Association Family Doctor booklet published today.

Women planning to become pregnant should give up smoking, consider taking vitamin supplements, ensure they are immune to German measles, eat well and get fit, the booklet by Dr Phyllis Mortimer, a consultant obstetrician, says.

Men too should get fit and avoid too much smoking, drinking, as some experts believe they can affect the quality of a man's sperm.

Getting Fit for a Baby. (Family Doctor Publications, BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JP, 75p including postage).

Mark Vestey unable to walk

Mr Mark Vestey, younger brother of Lord Vestey, who damaged several vertebrae after falling from his horse while foxhunting near Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire, on Sunday, is unable to walk but doctors hope eventually to restore movement.

A spokesman at Stoke Mandeville Hospital, Buckinghamshire, said yesterday: "His condition is stable and he will be undergoing treatment for several weeks."

Tesco ban on Canadian fish

Tesco supermarkets are to stop selling fish products from Canada as a protest against the country's culling of seals. Mr Ian MacLaurin, Tesco's chairman-elect, said: "We cannot remain impartial on this issue on which we have enormous sympathy."

The ban will affect canned salmon, but suppliers will be told to ensure that their products do not contain any Canadian fish.

Thames turtles

Five large turtles, believed to have escaped or to have been released from a private collection, have been seen in the Thames at Oxford. A team from Oxford University is trying to catch them.



Michelle Sadler and Robert Vaughan on their engagement

Man arrested after dumper deaths

By a Staff Reporter

Scotland Yard arrested a man yesterday in connection with the death of a young engaged couple whose bodies were found in the scoop of a dumper truck in south London.

The couple, both aged 17, are thought to have been killed at about midday on Saturday at a basement workshop in Southwark. Their bodies were later moved 300yd to the dumper truck in a playground, where they were discovered on Sunday morning by a woman who was walking her dog.

The girl, Michelle Ann Sadler, was naked from the waist down and was lying on top of the fully clothed body of her fiancé, Robert Vaughan.

Police said she had been strangled and he had been stabbed in the chest and had his throat cut.

Chief Supt Douglas Shrubsole, who is in charge of the investigation, said: "This is one

of the most vicious and horrific murders I have come across."

There was no sign of her missing clothing or of two gold necklaces and four rings, including her diamond engagement ring. Two gold rings had been removed from the boy's body.

Miss Sadler was last seen at 8.45am on Saturday when she left her home in Stepney to visit her fiancé. He was working overtime at Courier Displays in Union Street, where he had worked for 18 months. Her mother, Mrs Joyce Sadler, said yesterday that the couple had become engaged four months ago but they were not planning to marry for several years.

Miss Sadler was a prefect at the Sir John Cass Foundation and Redcoat Church of England school, where she was studying A levels in English and Sociology. She had planned to go into banking.

Sleepy DJ dismissed

Vinny Connell, a disc jockey with the independent Radio City in Liverpool, was dismissed last October for turning up late for his afternoon show and being drunk and aggressive at personal appearances, an industrial tribunal was told yesterday.

Mr Walter Scott, the deputy programme controller, said that Mr Connell, aged 32, an Irishman, arrived looking dishevelled, tired and that his

bright yellow trousers looked as though they had been slept in.

Mr Brian Smart, another disc jockey, said: "On a Sunday Vinny's programme would follow mine, but sometimes he was so late I would have to carry on until he arrived. Later he started sleeping on the couch in reception so we could wake him up. He used to come in after the clubs shut at 3am."

The hearing was adjourned.

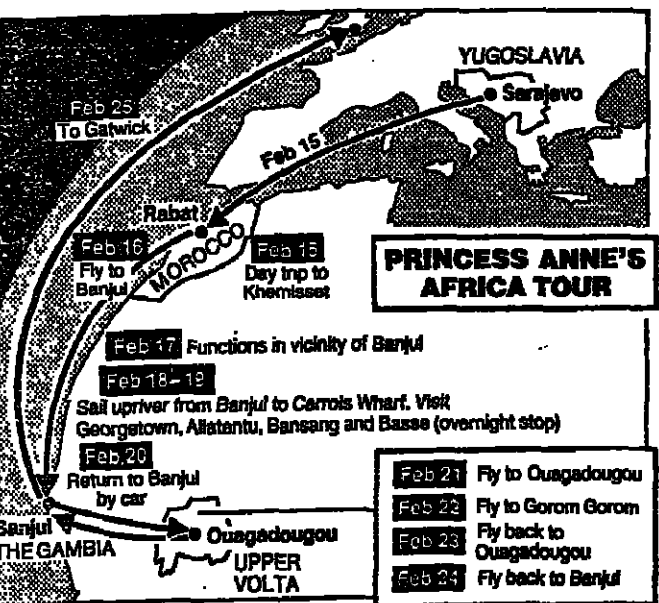
Princess gets rare vaccine for Africa visit

By Alan Hamilton

Princess Anne has had to subject herself to a course of rare, expensive, and potentially dangerous inoculations in preparation for her visit later this month to one of the poorest and hungriest corners of the earth during a tour of West Africa.

In addition to the normal precautionary treatments for cholera, polio, tetanus, typhoid, typhus, and yellow fever, the Princess has given inoculations against meningitis, rabies, and hepatitis. The meningitis A and C vaccine is the most unobtainable in Britain and the anti-rabies treatment is expensive although increasingly available. However, the hepatitis B vaccine is regarded with suspicion by doctors as being possibly more harmful than the disease itself.

The Princess, who is president of the British section of the Save the Children Fund, will be the first official British visitor to enter the state of Upper Volta, regarded as one of the world's most deprived nations. She will travel to the remote north of the country, where the encroaching Sahara has cut a hopeless swathe of drought and famine.



will spend one night at a Catholic mission, and one night at the American Embassy in the capital, Ouagadougou. She is scheduled to have a brief meeting with President Sankhar of Upper Volta, and to host a reception of the country's British community, which numbers little more than twenty. But her main purpose will be to see at first hand the work of Save the Children, which has spent about £120,000 a year for the past 10 years in

the country on basic health care projects.

In addition it spent £35,000 recently on emergency disaster relief, providing grain and transport for the near-starving Tuareg nomads from the southern Sahara. The Princess will visit a hospital at Gorom Gorom where Save the Children is attempting to care for malnourished children.

Princess Anne leaves London on Saturday for a visit to the Winter Olympics at Sarajevo in

her capacity as president of the British Olympic Association. From there she is due to fly to Morocco to inspect a Save the Children school for young polio victims at Khemisset.

She will be the first member of the Royal Family to visit Morocco since the Queen's state visit in 1980, when King Hassan gravely transgressed royal protocol by keeping the British monarch waiting at a state banquet.

Princess Anne will then fly to the Gambia, the first Royal visitor to the Commonwealth republic since the Duke of Kent represented the Queen at independence celebrations in 1965. The Princess will participate in Independence Day anniversary celebrations.

During the tour the Princess will be accompanied by Mr John Cumber, the director-general of the Save the Children Fund. The Princess will travel with the RAF or in aircraft of the Queen's Flight, which are maintained by the Ministry of Defence, except for the homeward flight when she will travel on a scheduled service of British Caledonian.

The call on public funds is defended on the ground that the Princess is undertaking a number of official duties during her tour, particularly in The Gambia.

Job cuts sought to save TV-am

By David Hewson

The breakfast television station TV-am is losing £400,000 a month and will run out of backing funds unless it reduces costs substantially, the management told the unions yesterday.

The company has used almost all of the £4.2m financial rescue package it arranged last autumn, and needs an additional £2m to pay staff wages and other commitments within the next few weeks.

TV-am's management has outlined a package of redundancies and cost-cutting measures to the two main unions involved, and has told them that unless the cuts are agreed, the company's backers are unlikely to provide the necessary funds to enable it to survive. The station has been badly affected by the continuing dispute between advertisers and the actors' union Equity which has halved its advertising revenue.

After a disastrous start, TV-am has recovered its standing in the breakfast ratings. It now regularly attracts 1.2 million viewers at peak time only a few points behind the BBC's *Breakfast Time*.

The company's costs are about £1.2m a month. However, advertising revenue for January and February is thought to have been about £800,000 a month, leaving the company with a shortfall of £400,000.

The TV-am management has asked for eight redundancies from the 100 members of the National Union of Journalists, and 20 from the 160 technicians, members of the Association of Cinematograph, Television and Allied Technicians. The redundancies have been rejected by both unions.

The company's board is due to meet tomorrow to discuss progress with the unions on cutting costs, and it is thought that they will refuse to raise any further loans unless the unions make sufficient concessions.

TV-am's backers feel it could recover much of its losses during the summer, when school holidays and the Los Angeles Olympics are expected to boost viewing figures.

Shy thinker in the Spectator's chair

By Colin Hughes

Meeting Mr Charles Moore is more like attending the rooms of a young fellow at a Cambridge college giving his first tutorial, than encountering the flurried world of a soon-to-be editor of one of Britain's most influential periodicals.

It is not only the sagging sofas facing each other alongside a square antique desk, nor the tomes lining the office wall, which encourage the comparison. Mr Moore, shy and nervous about his appointment as editor of the *Spectator* at the age of 27, is unashamedly an intellectual.

From Eton, and Trinity College, Cambridge, where he studied English and History - "only a 2.1 I'm afraid, not very good" - he landed a job "by fluke" with the Peterborough column of the *Daily Telegraph* and became a leader writer a year later.

He was invited to write leaders for "The Spec" (his abbreviation), and his appointment came only seven months after joining the staff as assistant editor and political correspondent. "Obviously I cannot claim to have any experience," he says, showing an unaffected diffidence.

His first task yesterday was to meet Mr J G "Algy" Cluff, the magazine's proprietor, who appointed him by telephone amid disaffection among long-standing contributors like Auberon Waugh, Ferdinand Mount, and Richard Ingrams, over the removal of the present editor, Alexander Chancellor.

Any innocent questions about that meeting, or the departure of the journal's best-known names, brings an instant "off the record" or youthful eagerness that everyone be friends again.

He embodies the *Spectator* ethic created by Mr Chancellor. "If people want information they buy *The Economist*. What I like is people who have something amusing or illuminating to say." Anti-collectivism is a hallmark; he is an "independent Tory" who declines to join the party.



Mr Charles Moore: Joined staff seven months ago.

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PARLIAMENT February 6 1984

Housing benefit rule change to help more people

SOCIAL SECURITY

The rules under which housing benefit is paid to poorer families are to be amended with the intention of helping about 1,300,000 households, Mr. Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Security, announced in a statement to the Commons. He said that about 300,000 families would now not lose their entitlement as they would have done under modifications to the rules he had proposed last year.

He added that as so many local authorities were having difficulty in administering the scheme, there was to be a review of it under an independent chairman.

Mr. Fowler said: I announced on November 17 last year that the Government proposed to make some changes to the housing benefit scheme with a view to containing the rapidly escalating cost of the benefit. As required by the 1980 Social Security Act, I submitted drafts of the regulations giving effect to the changes to the Social Security Advisory Committee.

In their report, the Social Security Advisory Committee were particularly concerned about the effect on the proposals on lower-income beneficiaries and the possible cumulative impact of the proposals on a minority of families. They suggested a number of amendments to the proposals designed to alleviate these effects.

At the same time they conceded that there were some aspects of the housing benefit scheme which extended financial help further up the income ladder than anywhere else in the social security system, and that if it was to be a reasonable and essential it might be reasonable to take resources from there rather than from the means-tested safety net.

They have considered the committee's report and all the representations which have been made very carefully. Clearly it is essential for the Government to maintain firm control of public expenditure and in the former rent and rate rebate scheme has increased tenfold - an increase of 140 per cent in real terms.

It is also reasonable to propose that where a non-dependant is living in the house of someone claiming housing benefit, that non-dependant should be expected to make a contribution to housing costs that the housing benefit paid to a claimant should be reduced accordingly.

Nevertheless, in view of the representations made the Government has decided to modify the proposed changes with three principal objectives:

To lessen the scale of any reductions in benefit to be faced by individual families;

To minimise the impact of changes on those on lower incomes, including pensioners;

And to simplify the changes which will have to be made. The revised proposals take full account of the administrative problems involved in the changes.

The Government now proposes to make only two changes to the housing benefit scheme in April:

First, the "taper" for assistance with rent will increase from 21 per cent to 26 per cent (instead of 31 per cent as originally proposed); and for rates from 7 per cent to 9 per cent. This will have the effect of halving the losses resulting from per changes in assistance with rent.

Second, the deductions made for non-dependants aged 18 or over will be increased as originally proposed; but the qualifying period for modification of those deductions will be reduced from 90 days to 56 days as proposed by the advisory committee.

In addition the proposed changes on the supplementary benefit non-householders housing contribution will go ahead.

Other changes which were to have been made in housing benefit in April have been either postponed or dropped. This will allow time for families and for local authorities to adjust to those of the changes which still have to be made.

The remainder of the proposals therefore provide that:

There will now be no change in the minimum payments for the poorest claimants - those with income levels below their needs allowance;

Increases in the minimum payment levels for other claimants will not take effect until November 1984 and the minimum payment for rent assistance will be set at 50p instead of 21p as originally proposed;

The requirement for 16-17-year-olds not on supplementary benefit or youth training schemes to make a contribution to housing costs will not come into effect until November 1984 and will apply to those in receipt of non-contributory invalidity pension;

The modification to the criteria for eligibility for high rent schemes will also be postponed to November 1984 when current authorities expire.

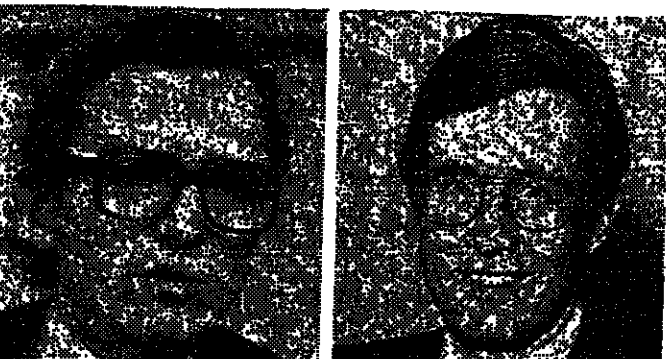
The rent taper will be increased in November, but only from 26 per cent to 29 per cent, not 31 per cent as originally proposed.

The restructuring of the proposals which I have outlined will reduce significantly the savings which can be made, particularly in 1984-85. I believe therefore that to postpone the changes to April 1985, the children's needs allowance which I had announced would be introduced from April.

The allowance was to have been increased from £11.90 to £12.90. That cannot now be achieved in April. But I am glad to say that it will still be possible to implement an increase of 50p in November 1984 and a further increase of £1 in April 1985.

The children's needs allowance will have been increased by £1.30 in real terms compared with the increase of £1 originally proposed.

Taken together, these modifications will help about 1,300,000 households and will mean that about 300,000 families will not now lose entitlement to benefit in April. Moreover, I propose to discuss with the local authorities how a limit on individual losses from the taper and



Fowler: Independent review

high rent scheme changes can be brought into effect in November. All these changes will be accommodated within the Government's existing expenditure plans. But the enormous growth of housing benefit expenditure and the income levels at which it is paid require further consideration. Equally the continuing difficulties which some local authorities are still experiencing in handling claims and payments are causing anxiety for individual families.

The Government's scheme, therefore, a review of the scheme and its operation is required. Its main objectives will be to examine the structure and scope of the scheme to ensure it is as simple as possible and that help is concentrated on those most in need; and to improve its administration by local authorities.

I shall be appointing a small review team under independent chairmanship to report to me on what I may consider urgently what action needs to be taken. I shall also ask the review team to consider the issues which the advisory committee identified as requiring further consideration.

The revised proposals I have described today will soon be debated. Nevertheless, I thought it right that prior to that debate I should describe in a statement to the House the changes that are being proposed. I believe they represent a reasonable balance between the protection of individual benefit recipients and the need to bring under control expenditure on housing benefit which is now running at almost £4,000m a year.

Mr. Michael Meacher, chief Opposition spokesman on social services, said: This minor amendment to yet another Government attack on the poor will still leave pensioners and some of the lowest income families in our society about £150m worse off this April and about £190m worse off next November.

What justification is there, even after these changes, for cutting the standard of living for pensioners by up to £2.50 a week and for poor families by more than £3 a week when in successive Budgets the Government has given huge tax reliefs to the very rich?

There is still abundant evidence from all over the country, 10 months after the introduction of this half-baked folly, of muddle, confusion and bungling on a scale without recent precedent.

Thousands are losing benefit they are entitled to because local authorities, such as Sunderland, have not got the staff or the time to send out the necessary rebate forms. In Liverpool, for example, people are still waiting for benefit after an eight-month delay.

Since there are already almost 3,900,000 standard cases in the pipeline due for individual review

Lord Mischam, for the Opposition, said that 95 per cent of those arrested under the legislation had either not been charged or had been found after charge to be innocent.

The evidence would appear to show that the powers of arrest under the legislation had largely been used not as a result of reasonable suspicion of involvement in anything to do with terrorism but to gather information about Irish people and those involved in Irish politics.

It was an indication of a dangerous shift in the concept of crime as a basis of police action to that of political vigilance. It was a shift which could be the beginning of a slippery slope.

A provision which the Opposition would try to remove from the Bill was that containing the criminal offence in Britain of withholding information from the police about future acts of terrorism or people connected with it if they were connected with Irish affairs.

Lord Henderson of Brompton, in a maiden speech, agreed on the necessity for the Bill subject to stringent safeguards.

The Bill was read a second time.

Meacher: Attack on poor

this April, these further changes in the law simply cannot be implemented before April 1 without an even greater slush.

Will Mr. Fowler therefore completely withdraw the changes in order to carry out the full scale review that is manifestly needed before proceeding with what is still a fundamentally unjust and inept measure?

Mr. Fowler: That is an absurd response. He does not even have the courage to welcome a review which he has actually been calling for.

Some 4,500,000 beneficiaries will not be affected by taper and minima changes of all. Of those claimants who are affected, more than 50 per cent of all claimants and 60 per cent of pensioners less than 50p, and 87 per cent of pensioners less than £1.

We have in mind a small review team under an independent chairmanship of one of the jobs of that inquiry will be to see whether the local authorities have been responsible for any of the problems.

Mr. Meacher once more ignores the fact that the previous arrangements for housing benefit were widely criticised or recognized as unsatisfactory. The principle of this change has substantial support.

Mr. Meacher said: I am not a Birmingham man. I am a Birmingham man in the North. I am a Birmingham man in the North. I am a Birmingham man in the North.

Mr. Simon Hughes (Southwark and Bermondsey, Lab.) said the scheme had been hastily and badly conceived. It was no good blaming the increase in housing benefit need on anything but the Government's economic policy.

The demand inside and outside the house would not be met by a concession to delay certain cuts in return for postponing the children's needs allowance. The needs of the poorest would be met only by tax credits and benefits being integrated into a simple and efficient scheme.

Mr. Fowler said the cost of such proposals would add substantially to the social security bill, now costing £37,000m.

Mr. Fowler said later that very few people would lose more than £3 a week. That figure had been substantially cut. In regard to April, he did not think there would be any losses of more than £3 a week. Of other recipients, only 1 per cent of beneficiaries would do so.

On Southern Region they are likely to increase fares in real terms by 1 per cent each year in future. Southern Region commuters will face paying full fares for cattle-pen conditions.

Mr. Mitchell: There are substantial improvements in some areas of Southern Region and the board have sought to match supply and demand; for example, to East Croydon, Reigate, Horsham, Farnham, and the new non-stop service to Gatwick. These are

substantial improvements, but when you are balancing supply and demand you have improvements and reductions at the same time.

Mr. John Cartwright (Woolwich, SDP): Why are there so many planned cuts on Southern Region for South-East London, the forgotten corner of the city, which has no London Underground, no city centre and congested road links? Why should people who depend so heavily on British Rail find their services so seriously cut?

Mr. Mitchell: Because of changes in the pattern of travel to work. There have been considerable changes in the movement of people to and from work and the railways board have sought to recognize that and match their services to it.

Mr. Roger Sims (Chislehurst, C): Although I have criticized BR in the past for failing to consult passengers in the timetable, I am satisfied that BR have gone out of their way to consult local authorities and passenger organizations and are trying to match demand with the new timetables. But it still seems to me that life in London ends at 11.30 pm.

Mr. Mitchell: Some of us might wish it would. (Laughter). After the knocking we had from the opposition, the chairman BR will be grateful for remarks about consultation.

Enhanced protection for Indian diplomats

TERRORISM

Arrangements have been made to enhance protection given to Indian diplomatic staff following the kidnapping and murder of Mr R. H. Mhatre, an assistant commissioner in the Birmingham office of the Indian High Commission, Mr Leon Brittan, Home Secretary, announced in the Commons.

Mr Brittan made a statement on the murder, saying that he would give the West Midlands Police any further assistance required in the investigation.

The seriousness with which this matter is being pursued and the fact that I have reported to the House at the earliest opportunity (he added) underlines the Government's determination to stand firm against terrorists and their violence. There can be no place whatsoever for either in this country.

Mr Gerald Kaufman, Chief Opposition spokesman on home affairs, asked whether the Government would police had any advance warning about the incident and whether that had been communicated to West Midlands police.

Mr Brittan: The Government had had no advance warning of any such threats and I am not aware of any threats to Indian diplomats in the past. Of course we are reviewing all arrangements for the security of diplomats in the light of what has occurred but there are 72 people with diplomatic status in the Indian High Commission alone and the police have to make their assessment, in the case of all diplomats, of what measures can and should be taken.

Their assessment has led to enhanced protection in the case of Indian diplomats in the light of this affair.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Co-operative Development Agency and Industrial Development Bill, second reading. (2.30): Agricultural Holdings Bill, report. (2.30): Bicycles (Safety) Regulations. (2.30): Prohibition of Female Circumcision Bill, report.

Commuter trains not badly cut

TRANSPORT

Scaremongering stories had been circulating about the extent to which railway services were to be cut. Mr David Mitchell, Under Secretary of State for Transport, said during questions in the Commons:

In London and the South-East overall (he said) the cut-back is only to the extent of 2 per cent of loaded train mile and in the country as a whole, it is one per cent.

Mr Peter Skaup, an Opposition transport spokesman, had asked if the minister was satisfied that the timetable changes proposed on British Rail Southern Region would not adversely affect the interests of commuters.

Mr Mitchell: Timetable decisions are a matter for the railways board. They are seeking to balance the match between supply and demand. Mr Skaup: The general manager of Southern Region recently conceded that these reductions, the third in eight years in the South, are caused by the problem of having to match the demand for services with the pattern of services with available facilities. He added that the reductions would lead to 135 per cent occupancy in the case of many commuter trains into London.

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Mr Mitchell: Some of us might wish it would. (Laughter). After the knocking we had from the opposition, the chairman BR will be grateful for remarks about consultation.

British troops stay as ministers consult

LEBANON

The Government does not intend to withdraw the British contingent from the multinational peace-keeping force in Lebanon precipitately and it would not be right to take a rapid and panic decision in the light of the very serious events there in the past few days, Mr Richard Lacey, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, told the Commons.

Replying to a private notice question from Mr Anthony Marlow (Northampton North, C), asking if he would consider the immediate withdrawal of British troops from the Lebanon, Mr Lacey said Britain was consulting its partners in the multinational force and would keep the situation under close review.

Mr Marlow: The Foreign Secretary said on January 11 that the purpose of the multinational force was to help extend the authority of the legitimate government of the Lebanon. As there is now no such government, and as it is most unlikely that there can be any such government until such time as the May Accords with Israel have been signed, would he signify to our constituents that it is no longer the purpose of that force to be present in the Lebanon?

Mr Lacey: There has been a great deal of discussion within and among the parties on the whole question of that Accord and the particular purpose of that was to provide for the withdrawal of the Israeli forces which is one of the major and important factors which we support. If there is to be reconciliation in the Lebanon, let alone among other foreign forces.

If alternatives which are just as good or better are put forward as a compromise plan which allows for the Lebanon to be independent and sovereign but still a state, the security of Israel on its northern border, we do not think it is right to stand in their way.

Mr Denis Healey, chief Opposition spokesman on foreign and Commonwealth affairs (Leeds, East, Lab): The time has come when the gobbledygook for the Lebanon has long passed. Now there has been a complete collapse of law and order in the Lebanon and the Lebanese army has been disintegrated. The Muslim and Christian components, would be approach President Reagan and ask him to fulfil the undertaking he made in December to withdraw his forces from there to a collapse of law and order in

substantial improvements, but when you are balancing supply and demand you have improvements and reductions at the same time.

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Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Transport, said in the Commons that he had made it clear to the Greater London Council that he would want to consider very carefully the evidence upon which the council had based its decision to ban on heavy lorries in the council's area was proposed.

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Unionist protest at agricultural policies

ULSTER

Throughout many decades United Kingdom policies had been the bedrock upon which a prosperous agricultural industry in Northern Ireland had been built, Mr Adam Butler, Minister of State for Northern Ireland, said in the Commons.

Mr William Ross (Londonderry East, OUP) had moved a motion calling upon the Government to counteract the damaging effects of EEC membership on the agricultural industry in the province. He said the effect of EEC policies had been to concentrate productivity in a decreasing number of sectors. The diversity formerly enjoyed by Northern Ireland agriculture had been eroded and it was being confined to far too narrow a base for the welfare of the agricultural community.

Moving a Government amendment acknowledging advantages as well as disadvantages to Northern Ireland agriculture in EEC membership, Mr Butler said that if the European Commission's present proposals were implemented they would be damaging to the farming interests of every member state.

Mr David Steel, Leader of the Liberal Party (Tweeddale, Ettrick and Lauderdale): Will he confirm that the British troops are there for the sole purpose of supporting President Gemayel in his almost impossible task of restoring national reconciliation, and for no other purpose, and the US is making its task even more difficult by refusing to countenance the changes in the treaty agreements between Israel and Lebanon which President Gemayel himself is seeking?

Mr Lacey: We are not there in order to take sides in the conflict against the Syrians. That is not our objective. If we were to do so, it would not be possible for us to even start to fulfil our objective which is to see what we can do in the greater Beirut area to assist the process of reconciliation and thereby add to the prospect of greater stability in Lebanon.

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No debate on Oman contract

Mr Brian Sedgemore (Hackney South and Shoreditch, Lab) unsuccessfully sought an emergency debate on the conduct of Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, her husband and her son over the contract to build a university in Oman.

He said it was important to learn how the Prime Minister came to be involved in the contract in the first place.

For the past three weeks (he went on) the Prime Minister appears to be saying to the House that her family is above the constitution whereas MPs have been trying to say that her family may be becoming the unacceptable face of democracy.

consider the views of the Wood report into the whole question and to let such elected representatives of Londoners.

Unlike Mr Ridley (he said) we are not interested in making political points in favour of heavy lorries to guarantee an even further boost to the Conservative Party treasury from heavy goods vehicle operators.

Mr Ridley: I am sorry to hear that Mr Snape finds such difficulty in combining a posture of sitting on the fence with being in the pocket of the GLC.

Mr Michael Havers, the Attorney General, rejected a call by Mr Austin Mitchell (Great Grimsby, Lab) that in view of evidence sent in him indicating that membership of masonic lodges was detrimental to the fair and efficient exercise of their responsibilities by judges in the courts, the Lord Chancellor should make it a condition of the appointment of judges that they were not members of such bodies.

Mr Michael Havers said the conditions for appointment to, and tenure of, judicial office were prescribed by statute and no Minister had power to modify those or add to them. The independence of the judiciary from the executive, thus guaranteed, was a principle of great constitutional importance.

Mr Douglas Haig, Minister of State, Home Office, said in a similar question calling for prohibition of the police from membership of masonic lodges. Such a prohibition, he said, would be an unwarranted restriction on the private lives of police officers and would be likely to interfere with the impartial discharge of their duties. Failure to comply with such a requirement was a disciplinary offence and any specific evidence of such failure should be brought to the attention of the authorities in the usual way.

record. The Bill's definition of data appears to exclude a printout obtained from a computerized system.

During the past two years very few word processors have been produced without "mini-computer" facilities.

The National Consumer Council doubts whether the Bill will meet its aim of conforming to the Council of Europe's Data Protection Convention.

The Bill empowers the Secretary of State to exempt from access by individuals personal data relating to health and social work. Yet the convention prohibits the automatic processing of personal data "concerning health or sexual life" without "appropriate safeguards".

The Association of Metropolitan Authorities believes that, while remedies are appropriate for individuals aggrieved about data held on them; the method of obtaining redress, as through the courts, could deter them from seeking redress. The Confederation of British Industry, however, believes in voluntary codes.

Concluded
A case for scrutiny, page 19

Why anti-terror Bill is needed

HOUSE OF LORDS

The death of Mr Mhatre, assistant commissioner in the Birmingham office of the Indian High Commission, pointed up the necessity for the Government to ensure that the powers in the Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Bill should extend to international as well as to Northern Ireland terrorism, Lord Elton, Under Secretary of State for the Home Office, said during the second reading debate on the Bill in the House of Lords.

It was another stark and repulsive example of the assassin's work, the minister said, expressing the regret and repulsion which the event had caused in the Government.

He pointed out that a report by Earl Jellicoe, who conducted an inquiry into the legislation, concluded that if such powers such as these were removed, the forces of law and order would be seriously handicapped in their duty to protect the lives of citizens. The right to live was the most fundamental human right there was.

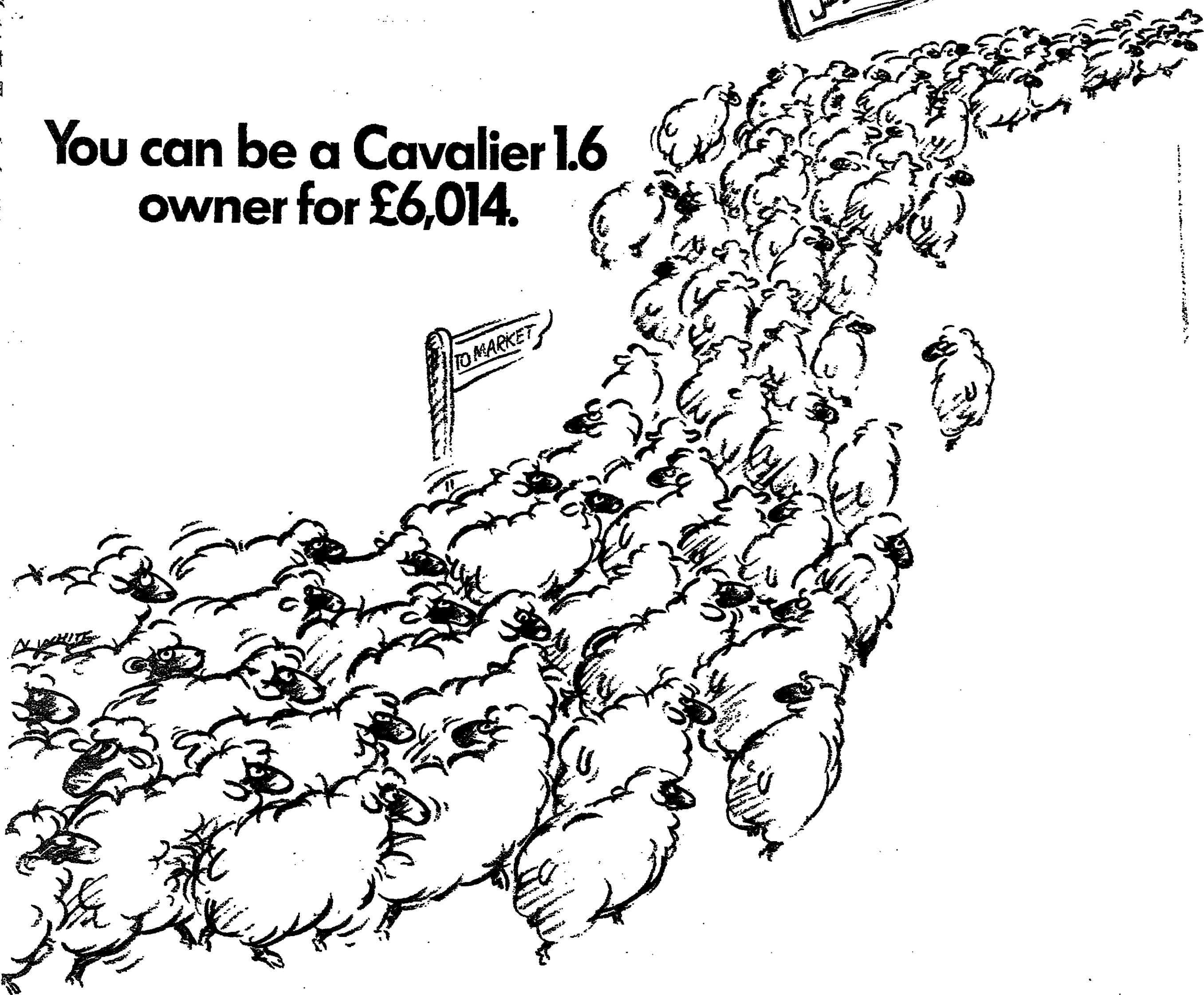
Whitehall brief

Sailor with freedom to think

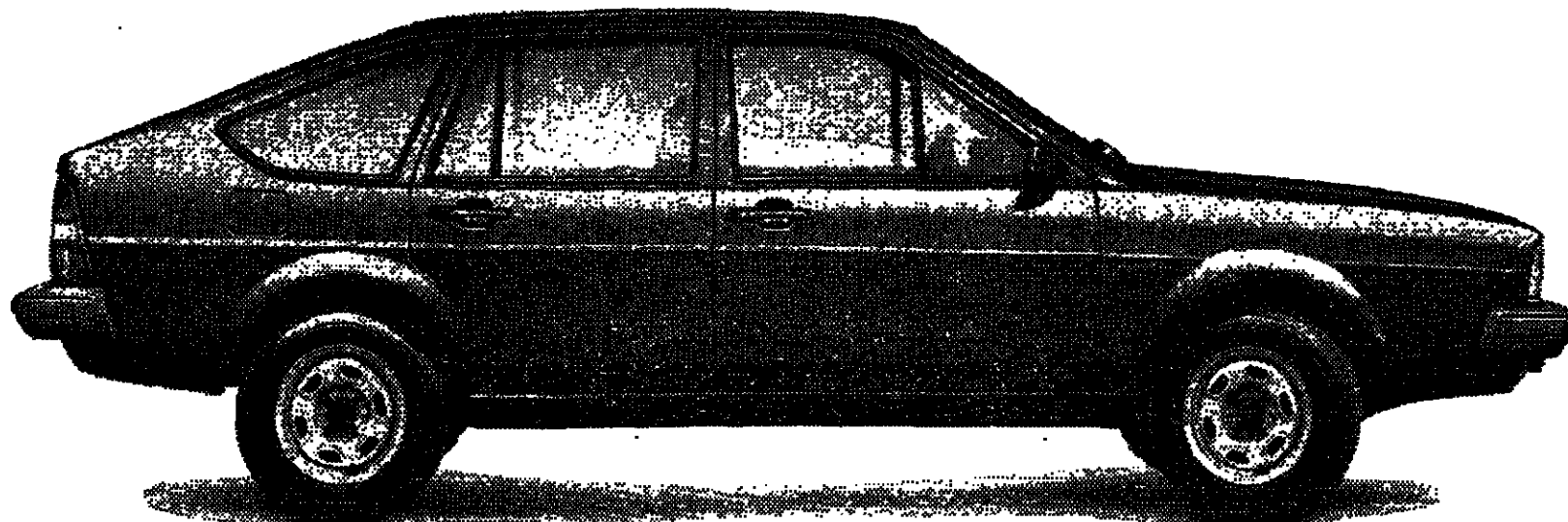
If Admiral Sir James Eberle, the brilliant new director of the Royal Institute of International Affairs, was instead at 10 Downing Street advising the Prime Minister, the arguments would be wondrous to behold.

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Labour's repeal pledges mount

By Philip Webster
Political Reporter

The Labour Party is accumulating commitments to repeal Conservative legislation at such a rate that party sources are beginning to fear that its programme may appear unrealistically heavy at the next election.

The promises, which cover Acts going back to the first year of Mrs Thatcher's first government, would take many years to fulfil and leave Labour with only limited time to bring in its own radical reforming measures, senior party figures believe.

Within a few hours last Monday, the party was committed or recommitted to a legislation which would take months to get through Parliament: repeal of legislation to cap rates, and abolish the GIC and restoration of British Aerospace to public control.

It is argued by some that at the next election such measures will inevitably take a back seat to Labour's far-reaching plans for economic recovery.

But others argue that the party must soon take stock of its position on repealing Conservative measures in order to present a credible and manageable programme to the electorate next time. "It is getting out of hand already," one source said.

But most of Labour's repeal commitments made since 1979 stand. The 1983 manifesto refers to measures passed under the first Thatcher government. The 1983 conference, updated, and strengthened, some pledges and there have been fresh ones in pronouncements since the election by party spokesmen.

Under them the next Labour government will act to sweep away Tory legislation in the following areas:

Education: It would repeal the 1979 Education Act which itself repealed the 1976 Labour Act compelling local authorities to draw up plans for comprehensive education.

Local government and housing: It would repeal "rate-capping" legislation and the abolition of the GLC. In addition it is committed to repealing parts of the present Housing and Building Control Bill and parts of the 1980 Housing Act which made council house sales compulsory.

Rationalization: The manifesto committed Labour to return to public ownership the public assets and rights bived off by the Tories, "with compensation of no more than that received when the assets were denationalized."

Nationality and immigration: Labour is committed to repealing the 1971 Immigration Act and the 1981 British Nationality Act.

Trade unions: Repeal of the Employment Acts which restrained secondary picketing and curbed abuses of the closed shop, the 1984 Trade Union Bill, which provides for ballots for the union governing bodies and pre-strike ballots, and possibly a new Bill.



The Channel 4 electronic newsroom at work (Photograph: Harry Kerr).

BBC tests ITN newsroom system

By Bill Johnston, Technology Correspondent

A novel electronic system which is now the mainstay of the newsrooms of Channel 4, TV-am and News at Ten is being tested by BBC radio, despite the corporation having developed its own system, installed at BBC Television Centre.

The California-based company Basyx, which produces the system, is now 51 per cent owned by Independent Television News, The BBC's own design, developed with the aid

of a £250,000 grant from the Department of Industry, has been the subject of industrial action by journalists seeking payment for using the equipment. It is used on BBC Breakfast Time and the evening news programme 60 minutes.

In both systems, electronic terminals are linked to a central computer which stores and processes all copy coming from news agencies such as Reuters and the Press Association. The computer assists in

the quick generation of scripts, running orders for programmes, Autocue and all the information now vital for running a modern radio or television newsroom.

The Italian television network RAI has just bought the ITN system. It is now used by Cable News Network in Atlanta, the 24-hour national cable news service; KRON-TV, San Francisco and Business Time Cable, New York among others.

Police chief in wrangle over Kelly inquest costs

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

A clash between the Chief Constable of Merseyside, Mr Kenneth Oxford, and his police authority comes to a head tomorrow.

The authority is considering refusing to pay costs for the legal representation of four police officers at the inquest in 1980 on Mr James Kelly, who died in custody.

If the authority refuses, Mr Oxford could have to pay the

bill unless the Home Office or the Police Federation negotiates a solution.

The authority says Mr Oxford promised it would pay the £32,000 costs of the officers' representation without knowledge, ignoring guidelines forbidding officials to spend more than £10,000 on their own initiative.

The home office has offered to pay half, provided the authority pays the rest.

Seamen call off protest

Greenwich Health Authority will reopen the two operating theatres at the Dreadnought Seamen's Hospital on February 20 which were closed last month because of a shortage of nursing staff.

Members of the National Union of Seamen at Dover and Folkestone, who have been fighting to keep open the threatened hospital said yesterday that they would stage a 24-hour strike to disrupt cross-Channel ferry services this week. But they called off a one-day strike yesterday.

Council abolition 'threat to Green Belt'

By Hugh Clayton, Local Government Correspondent

The council's statement has reached ministers just before they issue new draft guidance to local authorities about the Green Belt and housing land. The first draft appeared last summer in two Department of the Environment papers which were withdrawn after challenges.

These included the council, which feared that the guidance would make it easier for developers to build in unspoilt

countryside when urban land was available.

After abolition, the supervision of Green Belt land, designed to curb urban spread, would move from metropolitan authorities to many much smaller boroughs and districts. Some of the largest and most controversial Green Belt areas, including those around London and Birmingham, are covered by the authorities threatened

abolition.

Mrs Thatcher arrived in Budapest at a time when the Hungarian Government is trying to give another boost to economic reform.

Salvador forces prove their ineptitude in fruitless surprise raid

From John Carlin, San Salvador



A surprise attack over the weekend by a "Hunter" battalion of 350 men on Jucupa, a town controlled by guerrillas in eastern El Salvador, graphically illustrates the low level of competence among Salvadoran Government troops and their inability to capitalize on initial successes.

There were about a dozen guerrillas in Jucupa on Saturday afternoon when government troops firing bullets in the air appeared in the central plaza, before the usually alert guerrillas had time to grasp what was happening.

Lying on our stomachs behind a thin wooden wall within yards of the shooting, we watched as the Hunters of Cazadores fired bazookas, heavy machine guns and automatic rifles at the fleeing guerrillas.

Support fire came from a helicopter above, from which we were told later, operations were being conducted by Colonel Domingo Monterrosa, the soldier American officials here most admire in the 37,000 strong Salvadorean armed forces.

When the shooting stopped we peered through a lattice and saw the plaza swarming with soldiers, six of whom were rushing to the now grounded helicopter carrying on their shoulders a companion with blood gushing from a head wound. Later we saw there no dead guerrillas in the plaza, as we had expected and no evidence of any having been wounded.

The soldiers were nonetheless exuberant, shouting and proudly exposing their

Did the Army destroy their camp? Were many guerrillas killed?

"I did not see one soldier here," he grinned. "They didn't even make it to within a mile of here. Not one compañero (comrade), he added, his captured American rifle slung over his shoulder.

Back in the town, people were talking on about the presidential elections due on March 23 and how they thought it was unlikely they would be held, with the guerrillas around.

Two years ago the balloting for constituent assembly elections passed off untroubled in Jucupa. But since then the military situation has changed dramatically. Ragged guerrilla bands have now merged into a revolutionary army.

Know, above all, guerrilla morale is extremely, almost foolishly high, as they showed in Jucupa where they were caught by surprise, while government troops are demoralized.

Prompted by Dr Henry Kissinger, President Reagan is proposing \$312m (£215m) in military aid to El Salvador over the next two years, twice the amount he gave in the past two years.

That ought to be enough to fend off what would be an inevitable guerrilla triumph, achieved without any aid at all.

Nevertheless, the talk here in El Salvador that if the US Government wants to avoid the fall of another Central American country, sooner or later the President will have to think seriously of sending the Marines into El Salvador.

Hungary 1: Economic reform

Painful path to prosperity

From Roger Boyes
Budapest

"People should be allowed as much private initiative as possible. If somebody wants to set up a small business, a textile factory or a grocer's shop then he should be allowed to do so, encouraged, supported. . . . Workers should be persuaded to work hard. . . . Wages should be increased only for better productivity. . . . Profits and exports, these are the priorities."

This is not a page stolen from the diary of Mrs Margaret Thatcher but a compilation of recent utterances by Hungarian advisers and ministers, men who are trying to reconcile market forces with the structure of a socialist economy. In a Budapest bar, Karl Marx and Adam Smith would be able to hold an intelligent conversation. Probably both would be outraged by the liberties taken in their name.

Mrs Thatcher arrived in Budapest at a time when the Hungarian Government is trying to give another boost to economic reform.

The outward signs of success are still there: the good shoes and clothing (Pierre Cardin has a shop in the capital); the food which, though more expensive, is plentiful; Western cars a common sight on the streets; the privately-built hotels towering over the Danube on the Pest side.

The reformed agricultural system, providing for strong links between state co-operatives and private farms, is functioning smoothly, despite occasional signs of discontent from the farmers.

The private sector runs a large part of the service industry. An astounding scheme allows workers to club together and lease space in their factories during evenings to produce more goods at privately contracted prices.

All of this has gained Hungary the envy of its socialist neighbours and the applause of many in the West, who see the country as being in the grip of undercover capitalism (the argument is simple: socialism is not nice, people under socialist rule are unhappy, therefore a happy country cannot be socialist).

Both East and West are wrong. The prosperity is real, but not unbounded nor painlessly procured. Real wages have been falling, investment is stagnating, the economy is contracting and workers who do not moonlight find it difficult to make ends meet.

Hungary has to find more than \$1,000m (£700m) in debt servicing this year. There is a relentless drive to increase exports, some times at the expense of the domestic market, to earn dollars.

The decentralized economy,

the theoretical freedom from the tyranny of the plan, goes by the board in this situation. Trading agencies tell factories that they "expect" more goods for export and work is shifted away from the needs of the home market.

Income differentials are growing and unofficial estimates of people on the poverty line, that is, receiving less than half the average income, amount to 1.5 million.

If the prosperity is something of a myth, so too is the imagined capitalist renaissance. A close look at government proposals for continuing economic reform in the state sector clearly shows that the authorities are not about to abandon their monopoly of power in heavy industry. The central tenet of Marxism - ownership of the means of production - is to be preserved at all costs.

There are two main points to the next stage of reform: the expansion of worker democracy and the breaking up of the huge industrial conglomerates in the state sector, with a view to making factories more profitable and more flexible. A decision on the changes is expected from the Politburo in spring.

Under the present plans, smaller factories will have worker directors elected to their boards, while larger plants will have boards composed equally of managers, citizens nominated by the state to monitor profitability and workers chosen by trade unions or directly elected by the workforce.

The second part of the latest reform is to "deconcentrate" state industry. This should, in the view of some influential

economists, be carried out by managers on the spot rather than by state bureaucrats, who have too vested an interest in keeping industry large and unwieldy, for this is their power base.

Smaller units will be able to react more quickly to shifts in demand and to increase profits. If the authorities can overcome the innate conservatism of the state bureaucracy and the entrenched directors of the largest plants (all of whom are afraid of losing power), they will still face at least two problems.

First, the workers have to be persuaded to increase productivity without large financial incentives. It is significant that the one strike in Budapest last year was organized by lorry drivers protesting at a productivity scheme which paid them less for the same work.

Unions used their veto right - blocking management decisions without having to resort to the strike weapon - in 45 disputes in Budapest alone and most of these were wage and productivity-related issues.

The second hurdle, the banking system. If the reform is to work, banks must be allowed to declare state-run factories operating in the red as bankrupt.

Only the pressure of the market will force managers to work out ways to profitability. The logical extension of profit-seeking, and bankruptcy for failures, is that state factories are sold into private hands. Theoretically this is possible, but to do so would be to rip into the fabric of the socialism that Hungary still espouses, Adam Smith or no Adam Smith.

Tomorrow: Social strains

Nicaraguan poll delay condemned by Shultz

Brasilia (NYT) - Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State said that Nicaragua's postponement of the promulgation of electoral laws because of rebel air attacks last week was a transparent device to back away from elections.

Mr Shultz's comment was the Reagan administration's first response to the Nicaraguan decision, announced on Sunday, to delay consideration of a draft of electoral legislation. The ruling Sandinista National Liberation Front cited air raids by rebel forces on Thursday and Friday in northern western Nicaragua in delaying the step towards elections promised for next year.

The draft measure was to have been considered by Nicaragua Council of State on Tuesday. Nicaraguan leaders have disclosed several provisions of their electoral plan in the last week, but have cautioned that the one factor that could disrupt the process would be continued attacks by rebel forces backed by the United States.

Mr Shultz said there was no reason to make any change in the electoral process. The postponement certainly showed that the Nicaraguans were only too ready to back off from elections.

Elections and the rule of law were key elements in a democratic society, Mr Shultz said. He made the comments in a briefing on Sunday as he flew from Rio de Janeiro to the Brazilian capital, where he was due to meet Brazilian leaders yesterday. He declined to comment on the rebel attacks themselves.

TEGUCIGALPA: A US senator said on Sunday that the American military may remain in Honduras for up to five years under policies now being followed by the Reagan Administration (AP reports).

Senator James Sasser said the United States was planning new joint American-Honduran military exercises which he was unaware before. He also said the United States had plans to build new military airstrips and munitions storage facilities in Honduras.

He had learnt about some of the military plans during his weekend visits to several US-Honduran military installations.

Congress may have to "force" the Reagan Administration to reveal all its plans for Honduras, the senator said.

"We want to know what is the policy of the Administration with respect to establishing a permanent presence here. What are they seeking to do? I think this building ought to be discussed in Congress and publicly in the United States."

The United States was using six airfields and two radar stations in Honduras. The senator said the new military manoeuvres would be called Granadero I and could begin in May.

Ethiopia expels US envoys

Nairobi (Reuters) - Ethiopia has expelled several diplomats from the United States Embassy in Addis Ababa, according to diplomatic sources here and in Addis Ababa.

The diplomats had left the Ethiopian capital over the past few days after being given short notice to leave the country. The exact number of diplomats involved and the reasons for their expulsion were not immediately disclosed.

One source said only two of the six fully-accredited diplomatic staff now remained at the US Embassy in Addis Ababa. The embassy has had a skeleton staff since 1980, when Washington withdrew its ambassador at Ethiopia's request.

The reported expulsion marked a new low in relations between Washington and Ethiopia, one of the Soviet Union's closest allies in the Third World.

Before the 1974 leftist revolution which overthrew Emperor Haile Selassie, the US held a predominant position in Ethiopia. Relations plummeted during the 1977-78 Ogaden war between Ethiopia and Somalia, when the US supported Somalia, switched sides and threw its support behind Ethiopia's new revolutionary regime. Relations between the US and Ethiopia have been strained since.

Ethiopia relies on Soviet military aid to fight against secessionist guerrillas in Eritrea and Tigray province.

South Africa mining deaths 'six times UK'

From Ray Kennedy
Johannesburg

The death rate in South African coal mines is probably six times higher than in the United Kingdom, a British mining expert claimed here.

Dr Herbert Eisner, former director of the explosives and flame laboratory of the British Health and Safety Executive, says that while he does not believe that statistics compiled by the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs are being

deliberately distorted, they are based on methods of calculation no longer considered reliable by other important mining countries.

Dr Eisner has been brought to South Africa by the black National Union of Mineworkers to attend an official inquiry starting today into a methane gas explosion at the Hbobe colliery last September in which 64 mineworkers died.

The NUM is the largest black union in the mining industry and is recognized by the Chamber of Mines, the employers' body, as a wage-negotiating body although it has refused to register with the government. It is increasingly concentrating its efforts into securing the safety rights of miners.

Dr Eisner says that death rates in South African coal mines are given in terms of 1,000 workers a year which is "a method long abandoned as unrealistic elsewhere."

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South African statistics do not distinguish between underground and surface workers and the workforce in less hazardous open-cast mining is lumped together with that of conventional mining operations for statistical purposes.

More than 90 per cent of accidents in South African coal mines were attributed to "acts of God" while management and men were blamed for fewer than 2 per cent.



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Reagan returns to his roots for 73rd birthday celebrations

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

President Reagan flew to his boyhood home, Dixon, Illinois, yesterday to celebrate his seventy-third birthday and to drum up support for his reelection campaign with a few rousing remarks about how he had helped to make America great again.

It was the sort of occasion the President both loves and excels at, enabling him to portray himself as a classic example of Reaganism - the small town boy from a poor, but honest family who made it all the way to the top by his own efforts.

There was a homecoming parade along Dixon's Main Street, a visit to 816 South Hennepin Street, where the President lived between the ages of eight and 12, and an exhortatory talk at Dixon High School which the young Reagan attended during the 1920s, and a speech at the nearby Eureka College, the President's alma mater, from which he graduated in 1932 with a degree in economics and sociology.

Dixon is an unprepossessing Mid-Western town (population 18,200) situated amid the vast flatlands of Illinois, about 100 miles west of Chicago.

It is classic mid-America and represents in its own small way both Mr Reagan's innate optimism and his belief in the virtues of self-help, but also, with its large number of empty shops and bankrupt local hotel, the economic malaise from which America is only just beginning to emerge.

Mr Reagan's critics, with their eyes fixed firmly on the scale of the federal budget deficit, are sceptical about how durable the present economic recovery will prove to be.

But the President, who has been brimming with self-confidence since he announced he was seeking reelection a week ago, harboured no such doubts. "America," he told a crowd of 4,000 at Dixon High School, "is back on her feet and moving forward with confidence."

"Our rebirth began right here, in our homes, schools, churches and neighbourhoods... and America has recaptured her drive, energy and determination."

Mr Reagan's journey back to his boyhood was not supposed to be part of the election campaign and was therefore paid for out of public rather than party funds.

Its main purpose was to inaugurate a programme of distinguished speakers who have appeared on the cover of *Time*, as part of the weekly



Birthday greetings: President and Mrs Reagan are cheered by schoolchildren as they leave the White House.

magazine's sixtieth anniversary celebrations. (Mr Reagan has appeared on the cover on 23 occasions).

However, Mr Reagan is too crafty a politician not to exploit the advantages of incumbency by using his speech to extol his achievements.

Declaring that the post-Vietnam era of self-doubt was now over, he said that his administration had restored respect for American power throughout the world.

"We are trying to see to it

that American citizens - and it doesn't matter whether they are Navy pilots in the Gulf of Sidra (Siri) or medical students in Grenada - can no longer be attacked or their lives endangered with impunity," he told the audience who packed Eureka College.

Eureka College was the setting for Mr Reagan's famous arms control speech in May, 1982, which led to the strategic arms reduction talks (Start) with the Soviet Union in Geneva later that year.

Although yesterday's speech contained no reference to these talks, which were suspended by the Soviet Union at the end of last year, he reaffirmed his determination to reach agreements with Moscow on reducing the size of the two superpowers nuclear arsenals.

Mr Reagan also dwelt on his favourite theme - the need to reduce the size and cost of the central government. Big government was an obstacle to economic progress, he said.

Many countries which had failed to heed the advice of Cicero, the Roman philosopher, about the need for restraint had been "brought to their knees by governments that borrowed and taxed their citizens into servitude."

Not all of his audience may have been familiar with the works of Cicero. But by the time Mr Reagan finished speaking they were well aware that the President was campaigning on his record of cutting taxes and curbing government spending.

Israel determined to keep out of Lebanon chaos

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

The Israeli Government is braced for a further serious political deterioration in Lebanon, but ministers are understood to have agreed to avoid more involvement regardless of what might happen.

According to Defence Ministry sources, a Cabinet decision to lower Israel's military profile and concentrate on bolstering security in south Lebanon was taken on Sunday.

Within hours of the session, Mr Yitzhak Rabin, the former Labour Prime Minister, told a party meeting that the longer Israeli troops remained in Lebanon, the worse would be the effect on relations with the Shia Muslims who form the majority population in south Lebanon. He said that Shia terror attacks against targets in Israel could make those by the Palestine Liberation Organization "look like child's play".

Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Prime Minister, indicated yesterday that Israel was now concentrating on improving security arrangements with local militias to protect its northern border. He claimed that this process, the "final stage of the war in Lebanon", would go ahead whether or not there was any understanding with the central government in Beirut.

The Prime Minister, who has now apparently ruled out a simultaneous Syrian withdrawal as a condition of a further Israeli pullback, has rejected a suggestion that Israeli troops in southern Lebanon should be replaced by armed UN soldiers.

Israel is now facing an average of 15 attacks a week in south Lebanon, an onslaught which is causing mounting discontent inside the Army. There is a growing belief here that there will soon be a further Israeli redeployment south of the present front line on the Awali River despite US opposition.

Meanwhile an influential pressure group inside the Labour Party has published a blueprint for amending the party's interim policy towards the occupied West Bank in an effort to persuade King Hussein of Jordan to join negotiations over its future status.

The plan calls for a freeze on all Jewish settlements, the replacement of the Israeli civil administration by Arab staff officers, improved welfare for the Palestinians, liberalization in economic activity with the establishment of Arab banks, and an end to Israeli censorship.

Flood disaster

Colombo (AP) - More than 500,000 people have been left homeless by floods in the eastern, northern and north-central provinces after rains that began late last week. The rice crop was badly damaged.

Zimbabwe curfew renews old fears

From Stephen Taylor, Harare

The new dusk to dawn curfew imposed over part of Matabeleland and reports of a harsh security clampdown have raised the spectre of the brutal anti-insurgency operation in the troubled west Zimbabwe province a year ago.

For the past week security force units have been streaming into Matabeleland South which came under curfew last Friday. People arriving reported that movement in the rural areas had been severely restricted and that harassment and beating of civilians had sharply increased. Journalists have been barred from the curfew area to the west and south of Bulawayo.

The curfew was announced by Mr Simbi Mubako, the new minister of Home Affairs, who said that anti-government guerrilla activity in Matabeleland was worse than it had been for several months.

The mood in the capital points to another upsurge in the two-year chain of violence which has divided Matabeleland, home of the minority Ndebele tribe, from the centre and eastern areas which make up three-quarters of Zimbabwe and are home to the Shona-speaking tribes.

A rash of government statements in the past few days have given for the first time official statistics on what has been happening in Matabeleland recently. Guerrillas are said to have killed more than 120 people in the past year, including presumably both army personnel and civilians, and committed 47 rapes, while about 450 rebels have allegedly been killed or captured.

Guerrilla targets range over a wide spectrum including white farmers but after two years the rebels show no sign of developing a populist political programme or any determination to confront the security forces. Increasingly, South Africa is

accused of being behind the guerrillas, who are commonly referred to as "Super-ZapUs". The new terminology distances them from Mr Joshua Nkomo's opposition Zapu party - which was previously accused of sponsoring the insurgency - by acknowledging that they are a breakaway group, and maintains that Pretoria is controlling them.

Given South Africa's propensity for backing guerrilla movements in neighbouring states which it regards as hostile, such as Mozambique and Angola, that is plausible, but independent observers believe that Pretoria's role in Matabeleland is being exaggerated.

The slaughter by the notorious Fifth Brigade of Ndebele peasants a year ago stored up a reservoir of hatred which sustains the rebels. There is widespread fear in Matabeleland that the latest crackdown might trigger further massacres.

Eyewitness claims that the Fifth Brigade has been deployed in the new curfew area are discounted by informed sources who say that confusion has arisen over the scarlet berets worn by the North-Korean trained unit and similar ones worn by the Parachute Battalion.

Nevertheless there have been ominous soundings in the semi-official local press. *The Herald* commented last week: "When bandits were on the rampage in the same areas in 1982 the Government unleashed 5 Brigade, a move which earned widespread condemnation of sections of the world press. But it worked. The bandits were routed."

The editorial said: "A return by the Army in force would be welcomed by the masses and that restoring peace was more important than risking dents in Zimbabwe's image." It concluded: "The troops must go in - no holds barred."

Argentina bars exit of human rights suspects

From Douglas Tweedale, Buenos Aires

Former military chiefs suspected of committing human rights violations in Argentina will be prevented from leaving the country while the Government determines whether there are any outstanding requests for their appearance in court.

The Interior Ministry has instructed officials at airports and border posts to check with the judiciary and other government agencies before allowing any of the dozens of military officers under suspicion to leave the country.

It was originally reported that the Government had issued an outright ban on leaving the country against Captain Alfredo Astiz, known here as the "Archangel" for his suspected role in the kidnapping and disappearance of two French nuns and a 17-year-old Swedish girl in the mid-1970s.

But an Interior Ministry official said yesterday that the decree was only "a precautionary measure" and that it applied to "a long list" of other officers as well as Captain Astiz.

The official said the measure was taken in response to a request from a special presidential commission investigating the fate of thousands of Argentines who disappeared after being arrested or kidnapped under the military regime which stepped down last December.

The commission asked President Alfonsín to take whatever



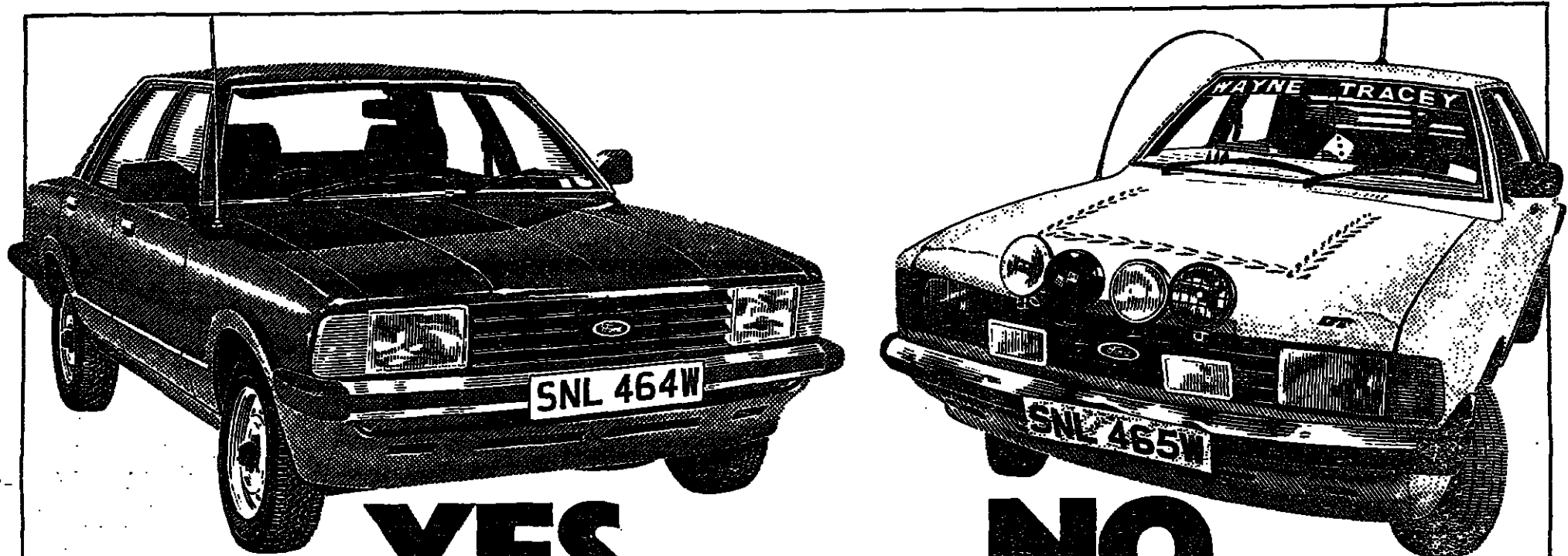
Captain Astiz: Suspected role in kidnapping

necessary to prevent officers leaving the country. It said the testimony of officers, including Captain Astiz, could be invaluable in clearing up the disappearances.

In a separate development, a national deputy here has said that it cost Argentina between \$5bn and \$7bn (£3.5bn and £5bn) to fight the 10-week Falklands war against Britain in 1982.

Señor Ruben Rabanal, a deputy for the governing Radical Party was quoted as saying in Madrid that the cost of the war was a primary cause of Argentina's economic crisis, along with other examples of exorbitant spending by the military regime.

He did not give any details about how he had arrived at the figure for the costs of the conflict or about the breakdown of the costs.



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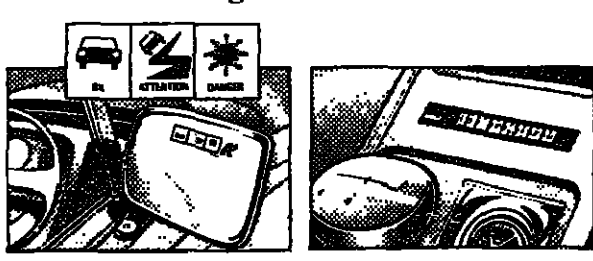
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It will be forced to prune uneconomic services ruthlessly, such as rural telephone boxes. Maintenance and installation charges in the more remote areas will rise too.

The Government says that there are safeguards in the Bill, but the 'protection' is like a sick sheep — weak and woolly.

These loopholes are the reason why amendments to the Bill have been laid before the Lords; amendments supported by a wide range of rural groups, and Peers of all Parties.

Services to the country areas have been diminished over the years — bus services, health and other services.

Rural telephone services will be crippled as well if these amendments are not carried.

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British Telecommunications Unions Committee,
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Israel flop and Kiessling scandal may lead to Kohl's political demise

From Michael Binayon
Bonn

These are difficult times for Chancellor Kohl. Not only has his decision to keep Herr Manfred Wörner, the Defence Minister, in office been scathingly condemned and led to more strains in the coalition Government, but doubts about his leadership are also being voiced abroad.

His visit to Israel has been described as a flop, and President Mitterrand is said to be bitterly disappointed in him. By overruling advice from many people in his own party that Herr Wörner should resign over the Kiessling affair, Herr Kohl has exposed himself to charges that he acted for short-term political motives and damaged the authority of his Government.

His evident desire to avoid a Cabinet reshuffle which could open the way to Bonn for his old rival, Herr Franz Josef Strauss, has led to the brink of an open split with the Bavarian-based Christian Social Union.

Herr Kohl will tell the Bundestag tomorrow his reasons for rehabilitating General Günter Kiessling while retaining the minister who tried to sack him. But the Social Democrats are unlikely to be appeased. Herr Horst Ehmke has compared the retention of Herr Wörner to the post-war denazification programme — the small fry was called to account and the big fish escaped.

Accusations — hotly denied



Herr Kohl: Misgivings at home and abroad.

by the Government — that the Military Intelligence Service was ordered to tap General Kiessling's telephone calls from the Munich hospital, where he has been recovering, will fuel the controversy, and Herr Hans-Jochen Vogel, opposition leader, has insisted that the parliamentary inquiry into the affair continue.

Some commentators have suggested the scandal could mark the beginning of the end for Herr Kohl. Even the conservative *Die Welt*, normally a staunch Government supporter, saw the retention of Herr Wörner as the lesser evil — but still an evil.

The "village circus" atmosphere in Bonn is seen as damaging at home and abroad, and Herr Kohl's election appeals for a moral and

spiritual renewal are said to look hypocritical now. Sources in his party, which has distanced itself from his decision, are suggesting that he may one day be replaced by Herr Gerhard Stoltenberg, the able Minister of Finance.

Herr Kohl, whose foremost political quality is his unflappable calm and strong nerves, appears unruffled by the rough press treatment he has received.

Herr Kohl takes comfort instead from opinion polls which show his standing among the electorate still to be high. However, he must have been disappointed by the meagre results of his recent foreign policy initiatives, especially his cherished visit to Israel which was seen as little short of disastrous, both in Israel and at home.

Mr Ben Nathan, the first Israeli Ambassador to Bonn, said his whole performance went down badly and left a bitter after taste. His "ruthless statements" — that arms export policies were made in Bonn and not in Jerusalem — gave an impression he was talking to Arabs, not Israelis.

Der Spiegel, citing a confidential German memorandum from Paris, said last week that even President Mitterrand has criticized Herr Kohl's lack of leadership at European summit meetings. The Chancellor can ill afford any open differences with France, with whom he hopes to revitalize the European Community.

Cheysson's trip fails to set date for Chad talks

Paris (AP, Reuters) — The three-nation African trip by M. Claude Cheysson, the French Foreign Minister, has failed to produce a new date for reconciliation talks between warring factions in Chad, French officials said.

M. Cheysson returned on Sunday night after a four-day trip to Chad, Ethiopia and Libya in an attempt to find a peaceful solution to the latest round of Chad's 19-year civil war.

France has sent 12 helicopter gunships to Chad in the past few days to reinforce French troops supporting President Habre's forces, French newspapers reported.

US in grip of Arctic weather

Washington (AFP) — At least 27 people died in snowstorms and Arctic conditions which hit Minnesota, North and South Dakota and Iowa at the weekend. Six members of one family froze to death in their car, trapped in a snow drift in Minnesota. Four other people died in similar conditions in North Dakota.

In north and central Iowa snow ploughs gave up trying to clear the roads because visibility was so bad. Winds were gusting at more than 60 mph with temperatures dropping to -50°C.

Jailed Solidarity activist 'critical'

Warsaw (Reuters) — Mr Janusz Palubicki, a jailed Solidarity activist, is in a critical condition after being on hunger strike against prison conditions for almost eight weeks, opposition sources said.

Mr Palubicki, a university teacher who was a leader of the banned union in Pznan, western Poland, was moved to the hospital wing of Wroclaw prison on Saturday, the sources said.

Hunt warning

Peking — The Chinese Communist Party has issued a stern warning against the hunting of endangered species of wildlife, including the panda, Chinese gibbon, red-capped crane and others. Rare species widely regarded as medically beneficial or especially nourishing, and birds and animals officially protected by law are still being eaten or shipped to Hongkong.

Mystery solved

Tokyo (AFP) — Wreckage found in jungle near the Thai-Burmese border late last year is the aircraft in which General Senriki Shimoda, the Japanese officer in charge of the infamous railway built by Allied prisoners-of-war during the Second World War was killed in January, 1943. Japanese officials have confirmed.

Chile clash

Santiago (AFP) — Hundreds of left-wing opponents of the Chilean military regime clashed with police at the end of a three-day conference of the People's Democratic Movement (MDP), which agreed to call for unity with the centrist Democratic Alliance (AD).

Duke hurt

Pamplona (Reuters) — The cousin of King Juan Carlos of Spain, Don Alfonso de Borbon, Duke of Cadiz, and his two sons were seriously injured near here when the car driven by the Duke collided with a lorry.

Iraq threat

Manama (AFP) — Iraq repeated its threat to bomb selected targets in 11 Iranian cities from today, in retaliation for Iranian artillery attacks.

VW baby points road ahead

By Clifford Webb
Motoring Correspondent

Volkswagen, West Germany's largest car maker, has lifted the security curtain which normally protects secret prototypes to show an eye-catching baby car called Student.

It is 1.5ft shorter than its present smallest model, the Polo, will seat four, has a top speed of 102 mph and will average 56 miles per gallon.

The occasion was the opening of a new research centre built at a cost of £19m in Wolfsburg, West Germany. VW executives insisted that Student was a research project only, and there were no plans to put it into production. However they admitted that some of the innovations would almost certainly be seen on next generation VW cars.

Nearly 650 highly qualified staff are employed in the new centre on pure research alone. A staggering 10,000 work on research and development work combined, with an annual budget of £360m.

The cost of keeping up in the car world is one of the biggest problems facing Jaguar, Austin-Rover and Land-Rover, as they prepare for privatisation.



Class of 84: Student prototype on display in Wolfsburg

BL Technology, the research and development company serving all three, employs only 800 in all and is believed to have a budget of less than £60m a year.

But at the end of this year, state aid for BL comes to an end, leaving prospective new owners with the need to raise huge sums to develop next generation cars.

A senior VW research executive told me: "Without access to one of the major international car groups, BL is in danger of falling behind. I suspect that Honda is going to fill this role with increasing effect as the two companies develop their existing joint manufacturing deals for new cars. We at Wolfsburg have the utmost respect for Honda's engineering expertise."

Nuclear date for South Africa

From Michael Hornsby, Cape Town

Koeborg, South Africa's only nuclear power station, is to become operational in March, and the first of its two 920 megawatt reactor units will be connected to the national electricity grid in April. It should be generating full power by the middle of July, it had been announced here.

Fuel loading of the second unit is scheduled to begin in September. It should start providing power to the grid in December. When both units are in full operation Koeborg will represent just under 10 per cent of South Africa's electric generating capacity.

Most of the past year, according to Mr D W Steyn, the

Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs, has been taken up with repair, retesting and inspection of the Koeborg plant after it was damaged in December, 1932, by Limpopo mines placed by saboteurs.

The African National Congress, an outlawed anti-apartheid organization in South Africa, claimed responsibility for the sabotage. The perpetrators were never caught.

The plant lies on the coast about 20 miles north of Cape Town, and has been the subject of controversy both as an alleged environmental threat and because of its possible vulnerability to attacks by ANC guerrillas. Security is very tight.

The Government justifies siting the plant so close to Cape Town on the ground that it was the only spot offering sufficient geological stability. The plant, which is the pressurized water type, is built on shock-absorbent piers and is capable, it is claimed, of surviving without mishap and earthquake with a rating of seven on the Richter scale.

The plant was designed by the American firm of Westinghouse, and built under licence by a French consortium. South Africa has the world's third biggest deposits of natural uranium, but up to now has had to have the ore enriched abroad for use as a reactor fuel.

Genscher paves way for summit

By Henry Stanhope
Diplomatic Correspondent

Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, held important consultations with Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, last night as part of the run-up to next month's crucial EEC summit in Brussels.

The recent Franco-German summit and the latest French ideas for finding a compromise solution to Europe's budgetary worries, were expected to dominate the talks over dinner at Sir Geoffrey's official country residence at Chevening, Kent.

All foreign ministers of the Ten will meet in Paris in about 10 days and then again soon after in Brussels, as France desperately tries to avoid a diplomatic failure during its six-month presidency of the Council of Ministers.

To return home from the Brussels summit in mid-March without a solution would throw everything on to the next June gathering of prime ministers in Bordeaux before France hands over the presidency of the near-bankrupt Community to the Irish Republic.

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Moscow anxious to halt speculation after Ustinov trip cancellation

Informed sources in Moscow claimed yesterday that Marshal Dmitry Ustinov, the Defence Minister, was suffering from influenza and that there was no cause for alarm over the Soviet leadership.

On Saturday Marshal Ustinov cancelled a visit to India due to begin yesterday. Delhi was told the Defence Minister, who is 75, had "domestic preoccupations".

The sudden cancellation set off a wave of speculation about the Kremlin power struggle. Despite his advanced age, Marshal Ustinov usually appears in vigorous health, and is considered the strong man of the Andropov leadership.

President Andropov himself has not made a public appearance since August, when he seemed mentally alert but physically frail. He was taken to hospital in December but is reported to be back at his suburban dacha, although not working full-time.

Sources said Mr Andropov could be expected to make a speech to his Moscow constituents on the eve of the Supreme Soviet elections on March 4. Western diplomats said they knew of no scheduled engagements which would require the Soviet leaders' presence before then.

Although Moscow is currently in the grip of an influenza

From Richard Owen, Moscow

epidemic, the cancellation of Marshal Ustinov's visit to India appeared hurried, suggesting some dramatic turn of events in the Kremlin which required his intervention. The visit has been built up by the Soviet Media as an important event.

Officials have repeatedly assured diplomats and correspondents both privately and publicly that the Soviet leader would reappear shortly. He has kidney and heart diseases and requires daily dialysis treatment.

As the Supreme Soviet election campaign gathers pace, Mr Mikhail Gorbachev is emerging as Mr Andropov's chosen successor should the President die or retire. Mr Gorbachev, who is only 53, is the Politburo's agriculture expert but also has responsibility for party personnel — a key power base — as well as some industrial matters.

He masterminded the internal party elections which ended last month with the replacement of more than 20 per cent of the Obkom (provincial level) party secretaries. Although some say Mr Andropov and Mr Gorbachev were aiming at a higher turnover, the new men are in their forties or fifties and many will also serve on the central committee.

DELHI: There is real disappointment among Indian

officials at the cancellation of the visit. Marshal Ustinov was to have met Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Prime Minister.

India needs the friendship of Russia to counteract America's support for Pakistan and the uncomfortable proximity of the Chinese. Russia is glad to have the political support of India, the only country of any size and influence not have condemned the four-year old occupation of Afghanistan.

The Indians have stepped well away from their previous dependence on Russian weapons, buying Jaguar fighters and Sea King helicopters and looking to the Mirage 2000 to counteract the threat from F16 fighters supplied by the US to Pakistan.

The Russians, however, have recently made a startling counter offer, suggesting that India buy the MiG29 which is so new that it has only just begun to be deployed with the Soviet Air Force, and certainly has not yet been offered to any of the Russian satellite states. Indian Air Force test pilots are leaving for Russia to fly and evaluate the new planes.

The Indians are also preparing to buy the Soviet IL76 transport plane instead of the American C176. The Russians are willing to take payment in rupees.



The law looks on: A British lorry leaving Le Havre harbour under police surveillance after crossing from Britain in the face of the French farmers' blockade of Channel ports.

Farmers occupy ports to block British

Le Havre (AFP) — More than 1,000 farmers yesterday carried out a threat to blockade all British lorries carrying beef or lamb arriving at Boulogne, Calais, Cherbourg and Le Havre.

The farmers, who are backed up by their trade unions, are protesting at a drop in meat

prices for which they partly blame British imports.

About 800 farmers occupied the quayside and buildings at Boulogne while 40 at Calais, 300 at Cherbourg and 200 at Le Havre stationed themselves at the exits used by vehicles.

It was reported that more than 20 British and French

lorries arriving here from Portsmouth and Southampton in three car ferries — Leopard (French), Viking Valiant (British) and Stena-Salor (Irish) — were checked by farmers but allowed to proceed as they were not carrying meat.

Most drivers cooperated with the farmers, but one with a load of hides refused to do so and sped off. He was not chased by the farmers, who seemed anxious not to start any incident which would cause the police to intervene.

British lamb and beef lorries appear to have been warned in advance.

UN wants quicker response on violations

From Alan McGregor, Geneva

A new warning system on human rights violations was proposed yesterday by Heri Kurt Herndl, the United Nations Assistant Secretary-General, in opening the six-week annual session of the 43-nation Human Rights Commission.

The United Nations must be enabled, he said, to act immediately in response even to threatened violations. Heri Herndl, an Austrian, who is head of the Human Rights Centre, also suggested the designation of regional advisers available to governments for consultations on drafting legislation and implementing existing human rights procedure.

The commission elected At. Peter Koopmans from the Netherlands as chairman for the session, with Mr Todor Vuchet (Bulgaria) and Mr Roberto Bianchi (Argentina) and Mr Ghaleb Barakat (Jordan) as vice-chairmen. The head of the British delegation, Sir Anthony Williams, was ambassador in Buenos Aires until diplomatic relations were severed two years ago.

Because the former Argentine military regime destroyed files relating to the torture and murder of "disappeared persons", the new Government has asked the UN Human Rights Centre for access to the mass of information it has collected on events since the 1976 coup.

Japan's peace plea to superpowers

From Richard Hanson, Tokyo

Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, Japan's Prime Minister, yesterday called upon the United States and the Soviet Union "promptly to negotiate reductions in their nuclear arms, and ultimately eliminate all such arms".

Speaking at the opening of the first session of the Diet since his Government was narrowly re-elected in December, Mr Nakasone said that only a country like Japan, without nuclear weapons and with a moderate and exclusively defensive capability, could argue persuasively for peace and disarmament.

His Foreign Minister, Mr Shintaro Abe, however, laid the blame for the breakdown of arms control negotiations on Russia in strong terms.

"I hope very strongly that the Soviet Union will return to the table and negotiate seriously," Mr Abe said, criticizing the

recent build-up of Soviet military forces in the Far East.

Mr Nakasone said that it was necessary for Japan to establish the "minimum high-quality defence force" and maintain the effective and smooth operation of security arrangements with the United States. He was "even more aware than ever of the enormity of international expectations of Japan as our status within the international community has improved".

The Prime Minister outlined proposals for administrative and fiscal reform.

He said he would strive "strenuously to maintain the free trade system in the face of a rising international tide of protectionism". All due efforts would be made to promote deregulation of Japan's financial efforts and capital markets, the yen's internationalization and international cooperations for currency exchange stability.

Danish tax fraud MP back in jail

From Christopher Follett, Copenhagen

After a two-week delay caused by a muddle over postal votes, the Folketing reconvened yesterday following the January election in Denmark and promptly expelled Mr Mogens Glistrup, the anti-tax campaigner as unworthy of holding a parliamentary seat.

Mr Glistrup, aged 57, the colourful leader of the Progress Party, will now return to the prison near Elsinore where he began serving a three-and-a-half year sentence for gross tax fraud last August, having lost a nine-year legal battle.

The controversial tax lawyer, who regained his old North Copenhagen seat in the recent election, becoming the first Dane to be elected an MP while in jail, was released after his reelection almost a month ago.

Parliament expelled him for the second time by 140 votes to 17. Mr Glistrup's period of freedom had been extended by an unprecedented recount of 110,000 postal ballot votes in last month's poll, which was ordered after the discovery in the recount, they were not sufficient to change the original result of the election, which gave the 17-month-old, four-party Conservative-Liberal coalition of Mr Poul Schluter, the Prime Minister, and its supporters 90 seats, a narrow absolute majority in the 179-seat legislature.

The recount delayed Parliament from reassembling as a properly constituted body until two weeks after its official opening, an event unique in Danish history.

Yesterday's session ended with the Government presenting its revised 1984 austerity Finance Bill, which cuts the budget deficit for the first time in a decade.

Dry desert

Kuwait (AP) — The Kuwaiti authorities have crushed and buried in the sand bottles of whisky and beer worth about \$5m (£3.5m) which had been confiscated from smugglers at Kuwait airport and border posts over the past six months.

Pass blocked

Vienna — The Brenner Pass between Austria and Italy was blocked yesterday by hundreds of Italian lorry drivers protesting at increased tariffs and delays of up to 15 hours at the Austrian frontier.

Prisoners of conscience



Gabon: Jérôme Nguimbi

By Caroline Moorehead

Jérôme Nguimbi, a former member of the National Assembly, is serving a 15-year sentence of hard labour for suspected involvement with a banned opposition political group called Morena — the Movement for National Recovery — which has been extremely critical of Government policy. Mr Nguimbi, aged 44, has 15 children.

After independence from France in 1960, Gabon enjoyed a brief period of democratic government before President Mba eliminated all opposition to his Bloc Démocratique Gabonais (BDG). When, in 1968, President Bongo replaced the BDG with the Parti Démocratique Gabonais (PDG), he decreed that formation or membership of alternative political parties was illegal.

Observers who attended Mr Nguimbi's trial, which took place in Libreville's Court of State Security in November, 1982, believe it to have been legally invalid. No evidence was brought to prove that he had been connected with Morena and he was neither allowed to consult a lawyer before the trial, nor to appoint his own.

Mr Nguimbi, who is one of more than 100 people arrested on suspicion of being associated with Morena, is now being held at the Gros Bouquet prison in Libreville, notorious for its use of torture.



Mr Nguimbi: Trial said to be legally invalid.

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FASHION by Suzy Menkes

Svengali to Saint Laurent

Pierre Berge has been the partner, mentor, business brain and confidant of Yves Saint Laurent for 22 years. "He has given me the possibility to create," says Yves. Yves Saint Laurent dominated the Paris couture season just as his brooding portrait by Andy Warhol dominates Berges study. Saint Laurent's strengths are his perfection of cut and detail, his absolute authority of taste and his totally modern idiom.

"For Yves, fashion is quite simply art," says Pierre Berge, who was representing the artist Bernard Buffet when they first met. I see no difference between Balenciaga and Braque or between Saint Laurent and Picasso. All artists share exactly the same problems, preoccupations, the same talent and the same kind of intelligence. It may be more important to create *Les Femmes d'Alger* than to make a jump suit, but the act of creation is the same.

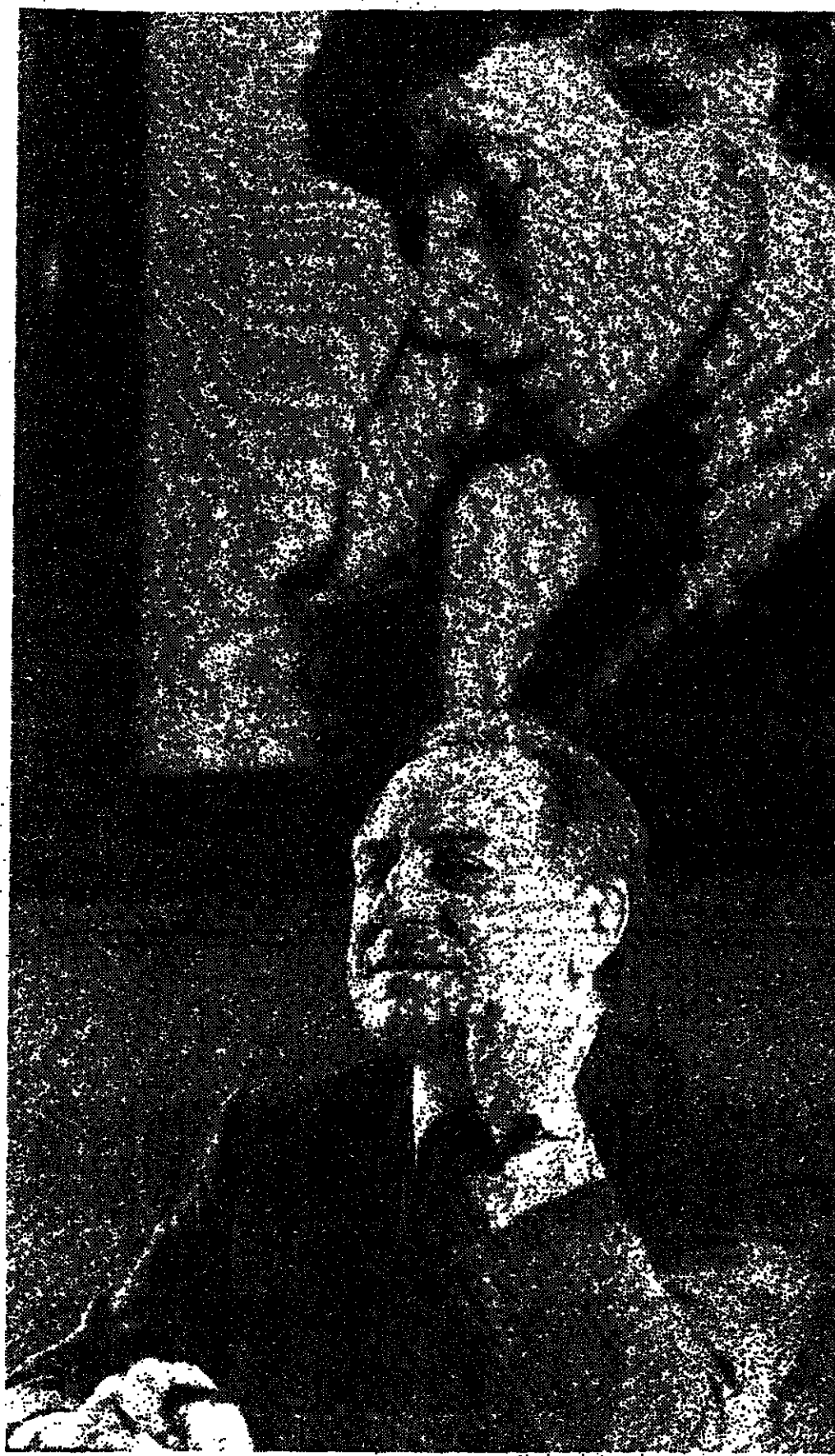
It is no secret that the process of creation is an agonising one for the intense introspective and reclusive Yves Saint Laurent. Other designers whose businesses are conspicuously less well managed (and those who see the autocratic side of the elegant Monsieur Berge) suggest that Saint Laurent plays Trilby to his Svengali. Berge would not agree with that definition of their roles.

"I never interfere in his domain of creation and he never enters my world of business," he says. "We are not alike as people. He is introspective and solitary. I like people. I enjoy travelling and he loathes it. I like cooking and fine wine, and he isn't interested at all. But we do share the same judgments, the same aesthetic taste in objects and the same belief in the importance of creativity."

They also share a flat in Paris filled with fine canvases, a house in Morocco where they have escaped this week, and a country house near Deauville in which Saint Laurent's passion for Proust is played out by naming each bedroom after a Proustian character. Berge's own private passion is helicopters - both models and flying machines; he seems as proud of his pilot's licence as he is of the YSL retrospective currently at New York's Museum of Modern Art.

Today, the catalogue of that exhibition is published as a book with a plethora of plates in colour and black and white. They give to those who have never seen a Saint Laurent collection an insight into his fashion ethos: that cut is everything, that fine fabrics should be treated with respect, that simplicity is the greatest sophistication of all. As he once said to me: "All a woman needs to be well-dressed is a trench coat, a sweater and pants."

In his new collection that means a milk-white ottoman silk trench (now three-quarter length), black crepe pants (cut wider and shorter) and a sweater embroidered into an argyle pattern with jet beads. Such understanding of modern



Pierre Berge and Warhol's portrait of Yves Saint Laurent. "We are not alike as people." Photograph by HARRY KERR.

style, perceived in the most refined and luxurious way, is worthy of Chanel, who now has a new designer - Karl Lagerfeld - to interpret the name.

In Paris couture, Saint Laurent and Chanel are playing out a fashion duel which resumes in the spring when Karl Lagerfeld brings out a ready-to-wear collection for the first time under his own label.

The new names of creative design in French fashion often come from abroad - a fact that Berge understands as President of the Chambre Syndicale de la Couture. Now he has been charged from on high ("this comes from the Elysee itself") to set up an institute of creativity to promote design in France. Saint Laurent couture

remains to Yves, the fount of creativity, says Berge. But the couture house does not make money: it is effectively subsidised by the Rive Gauche boutiques, he perfumes, make-up and accessories.

"What of the future?" "I believe that our role is to continue to create, to put our name only on things that are creative," says Berge. "It is difficult to talk of the future when it all depends on the fate of one man, and everybody knows that Yves does not enjoy good health, that he is tired - tired of life. I have sympathy. I am open to everything."

Saint Laurent's mighty fashion empire is admired and envied by other designers, who

sligh into their silks that what they need to achieve lift-off is "a Berge."

Pierre Berge's face cracked into a grim smile at this accolade. He will not admit that any single designer in Paris ("except perhaps for Madame Gres, she has real talent") is worthy of a fashion empire. He doubts too if there is much untapped talent in London (where he flew over last week just to look at a Titian in the Venice exhibition). "Of course these designers are quite wrong when they say that they need me," says Berge. "What they really need is to be a Saint Laurent."

*Yves Saint Laurent, published by Thames and Hudson at £20.



Blonde pure cashmere coat, also cream and navy, £355. Pure wool Jaeger anniversary sweater with 100 motifs £35. Navy pure wool gabardine trousers, also cream, £59. All from all branches of Jaeger. Pearl and gilt necklaces and earrings from Chanel, 26 Old Bond Street, W1. Make-up by GHERYL for REV'LON using their Blonde cosmetic collection with delicate face colour, Champagne Blonde face cream, pale Honey Blonde lipstick and the accent on the eyes using duo-eye colour. HAIR by SHAUN at Salon Celine. Photograph by ROBERT MACKINTOSH.

One hundred years of animal magic

The Times, Saturday October 4 1884.

From a Correspondent.

"A new gospel has reached us from Germany which promises the physical regeneration of mankind, if we will but adopt a comparatively speaking, simple reform in our system of clothing."

It is a medical theory, based on the close observation of animal life, demonstrated by scientific experiments and proved by practical experience.

The doctrine starts with the fundamental principle that, being animals, we should wear animal clothing. The absorption by vegetable life of poisonous emanations from animal life is a process not limited, it would appear, to living plants, but continued by vegetable fibre such as cotton, linen etc with the difference that, while the living plant assimilates these emanations the dead fibre cannot do so but exhales them again when wetted or warmed... On the other hand animal material such as wool, is made by

nature to protect animal life, and will not prevent but assist the evaporation of the emanations coming from the body.

From these facts, Dr. Gustav Jaeger, Professor of Zoology and physiology at Stuttgart, deduces his medical theory which has won innumerable disciples in an incredibly short time.

What is now known as Dr. Jaeger's sanitary woollen clothing... consists, for men, of tight-fitting stockinged undergarments made of pure undyed wool, fastened over the shoulder and of double thickness over the breast. The coat or jacket is double-breasted, buttoned well up to the throat, contains no lining or padding unless of pure wool, and is either undyed or treated only with uninjurious fast dyes.

The same rule applies to the trousers... Inside the sleeves and the trouser legs there is a contrivance which, fastening tight round the limb prevents up-draughts. The feet are clad in pure woollen socks

with divisions for each toe, while the upper part of the boot is made of felt, the lower part of felt or porous leather. The substitution of a collar made of unstarched white cashmere is the most conspicuous feature in the dress. The cashmere collar is a useful preventative against throat disorders.

Needless to say, all these precautions taken during the day must be continued at night. The bed must also be free from vegetable fibre.

In reward for this great change in the mode of living the action of the skin is so stimulated that the noxious principles, the "bad humours" our forefathers so often spoke about, are soon given off and evaporated. According to Dr. Jaeger... we may not hope to realize complete immunity from illness, though we may secure health equal to that of domestic animals. While we live within four walls we can never attain to the degree of health of sheep, birds and wild animals.

Return of quality and quiet good taste

Like our monarchy, Jaeger has a German ancestry but seems to represent the best of British style. It stands for quality, quiet good taste and a sense of continuity - all virtues which are currently back in fashion.

The early history of Dr. Gustav Jaeger's sanitary woollenism was unorthodox. Enthusiasts like the aesthetic Oscar Wilde, and the intellectual George Bernard Shaw, both were ardent converts to wool suit. (Shaw was described as looking like a garden gnome.)

The feature in *The Times* of 1884 shows the interest aroused by the persuasive theory of the Stuttgart professor. His revolutionary ideas seem rather akin to the current cult of healthy living, back-to-nature and fashion based on natural fibres.

The most interesting thing about Jaeger's history is that it continued to prosper once the animal magic had faded. It is a long way from the back of a two-wheeled Victorian cart or the underbody of a Mongolian mountain goat to the wardrobes of sophisticated society. The transformation of the health cult clothes into high-fashion happened in the 1930s, when the town suit, the tailored coat and Schiaparelli's "shocking" pink alarmed established customer - until the young Duchess of York (now our Queen Mother) set a royal seal of approval on the new image. Maurice Gilbert left the flourishing Selfridge store to make Jaeger a retail force.

Now Jaeger, under its umbrella company Coats Paton, is very big business, with 60 shops in Britain, a turnover of almost £70m and a large overseas

representation which has brought export sales up to 35 per cent.

This current success is a reward for virtue. The company came through the mini era without abandoning the principles for the camel coats) on which its earlier success was based. "We had then a reputation of being dull," says Peter Chalcraft, the present merchant director, who admits that the so-called swinging sixties were a difficult time.

The architect of the fresher current collections, carefully coordinated and with a subtle sense of changing fashion rhythms, is chief designer David Watts, who has been with the company for 27 years and who was awarded an M.B.E. in last summer's Birthday Honours for services to export. He now has three assistants working with him to produce the co-ordinated separates. Knitwear and the expanding after six range. He remembers when he had just left the Royal College of Art and the young designer who shared the Jaeger studio was called Jean Muir.

"The whole thing of the

sixties worked against us, because we weren't making Mickey Mouse T-shirts and rich hippie clothes," says David Watts. "But fashion has turned our way again; people are fed up with junk, with badly made clothes and fashion extremes."

Since this is a birthday celebration, I chose to photograph the most covetable pure cashmere coat (it has to be stroked to be appreciated) from the current collection. It is cut, says David Watts, like a shirt, unstructured, with a soft shoulder line, and relies on the superb cloth for its impact. Moving upmarket on buying cloth has been a deliberate policy, says Peter Chalcraft, and has been the basis of their present success in the United States. A nicely timed expansion in Jaeger's native Germany is planned for this anniversary year.

One of Dr. Jaeger's more alarming theories is that you should take a bath in your woollies, leaving the moisture to evaporate naturally as animals do. That is a luxury that I would leave to the cashmere goats in their mountain streams.

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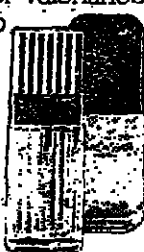
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SPECTRUM

THE TIMES
GUIDE TO THE WINTER OLYMPICS

The addition of a skater from the Virgin Islands has brought to 77 the number of nations at tomorrow's opening ceremony in Sarajevo. John Hennessy previews the fortnight's events

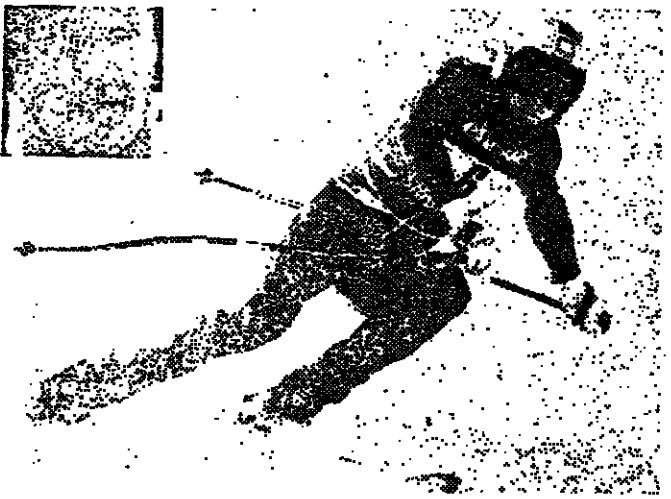
Showdown on White Mountain

MEN'S ALPINE SKIING

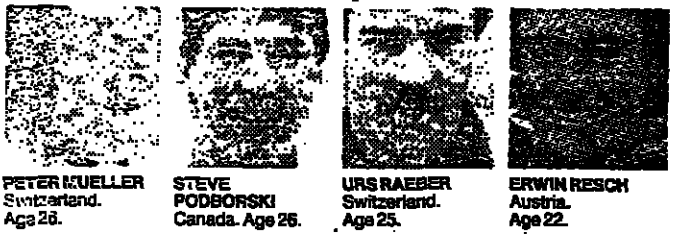
All the world loves the hero of '76

All nationalistic feelings will be set aside, or almost all, when Franz Klammer leaps out of the men's downhill start gate on Mount Bjelasnica (White Mountain) on Thursday. Not for many years has a man known greater universal adulation. Does it, one wonders, originate from his epic victory

DOWNHILL

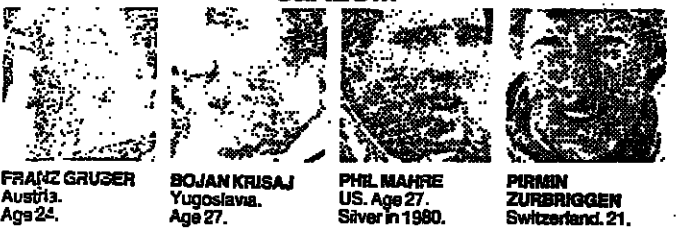


FRANZ KLAMMER Austria, Age 30. Five times World Cup downhill title-holder.



PETER MUELLER Switzerland, Age 28.
STEVE PODBORSKI Canada, Age 26.
URS RAEBLER Switzerland, Age 23.
ERWIN RESCH Austria, Age 22.

SLALOM



FRANZ GRUBER Austria, Age 24.
BOJAN KRIZAJ Yugoslavia, Age 27.
PHIL MAHRE US, Age 27.
PIRMIN ZURBRIGGEN Switzerland, Age 21.

over Bernhard Russi, of Switzerland, at Innsbruck in 1976, or from his courage in facing a constant reminder in a wheelchair of the horrifying accident suffered by a younger brother, or from the aura of bonhomie that he radiates? It is hard to say, but outside his beloved Austria he is at least everyone's

second favourite, behind perhaps a choice nearer home. Sentiment apart, his resounding victory in the famous Hahnenkamm at Kitzbühel last month shows that he still retains his powers and his thirst for battle. His principal challengers for the gold medal probably lie among a number of Swiss, together with Steve Podborski, an intrepid Canadian who signalled a return to form with a recent win at Garmisch-Partenkirchen. Podborski was second over the Bjelasnica track in a World Cup competition last year, one place ahead of Klammer.

Since Ingemar Stenmark (Sweden) is ruled out on grounds of professionalism, the two slaloms seem wide open. A blinding sequence this season of first, second, first by Marc Girardelli ought to instil him as a firm favourite, but he too must stay at home. For his own good reasons, he has opted to ski in Luxembourg colours instead of those of his native Austria, but under Olympic rules flags of convenience are not allowed. Austria, in an understandable fit of pique, chose to pass him by.

With Phil Mahre, winner of the World Cup these last three years, struggling to find his touch, like his twin brother Steve, almost any winner in the first group of the slaloms is possible. Pirmin Zurbriggen (Switzerland) now has the best credentials for the giant slalom and Franz Gruber for the special. But Bojan Krizaj is a good enough skier to pull off either for Yugoslavia and have them dancing in the streets.

Martin Bell, in the downhill, represents Britain's best prospect in all Alpine events, albeit at a modest level.

Downhill: Thursday, February 9 (television live on BBC 1, 10.55 am - noon). Giant slalom: Wednesday 15 and Thursday 16. Slalom: Friday 17.

WOMEN'S ALPINE SKIING

Versatile Epple hopes for a treble

The women Alpine skiers, as usual, reveal a wider degree of versatility than their menfolk, having resisted to a greater extent the regrettable demarcation line between downhill and slalom. Hanni Wenzel, of Liechtenstein, won two gold medals and a silver at Lake Placid in 1980 to emulate the coup of Rosi Mittermaier, of West Germany, four years earlier, but she is another who bears the taint of professionalism.

Irene Epple, of West Germany, may now be the one to follow in a distinguished line. She began the season with the exciting victory at Val d'Isère and, if she has not been able quite to maintain that momentum, she has done enough in all three disciplines to encourage the possibility of three medals, of whatever hue. She might then come to be known in Britain as a woman of substance in her own right rather than as a former girlfriend of Sebastian Coe (a former former girlfriend, the après-ski whisper now goes).

The downhill favourite will probably be Maria Walliser (Switzerland) not only because of her consistent running but also because she too likes the women's Olympic course on Mount Jahorina. Miss Walliser, whose physical attractions ought to be enough for the purpose, has another endearing quality, for she is apt to roll on her back in an apparently uncontrollable display of exuberance. Pure coincidence, of course, that the soles of her skis, prominently bearing the makers' name are thus placed in full view of the television camera.

In the slalom events another Swiss, Erika Hess, will be expected to lead the way.

challenged by two Americans, Tamara McKinney, winner of the overall World Cup last year, and Christin Cooper, and by the Polish twins Dorota and Malgorzata Tialka, agreeable counterparts to the masculine Mahres. Miss Epple's best chance is in the giant slalom,

but she is no fool in the shorter race. Lesley Beck and Clare Booth will be making what can only be, alas, token appearances for Britain.

Downhill: Saturday, February 11. Giant slalom: Monday 13 and Tuesday 14. Slalom: Friday 17.

DOWNHILL

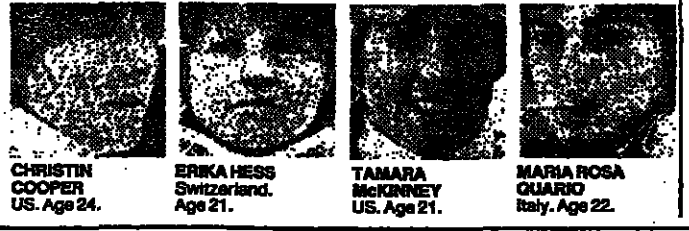


IRENE EPPLE West Germany, Age 26. Silver in giant slalom at Lake Placid.



ARIANE ERRAT Switzerland, Age 22.
MICHELA FIUMI Switzerland, Age 17.
MARIA WALLISER Switzerland, Age 20.
GERY SORENSON Canada, Age 25.

SLALOM



CHRISTIN COOPER US, Age 24.
ERIKA HESS Switzerland, Age 21.
TAMARA MCKINNEY US, Age 21.
MARIA ROSA GUARINI Italy, Age 22.

Following yesterday's controversial ruling from the EEC Harmonization Committee, Britain has been ordered to export 3 per cent of its place names to the Continent. The United Kingdom, says the committee's report, has exercised a monopolistic control over this commodity for some centuries, having nationalized materials and installations originally supplied by Continental and Scandinavian sources.

"Unfortunately, there is no appeal against this decision," Rodney Stoke-Tukeley MP, Britain's Junior Trade Minister with responsibility for harmonization, admitted last night. "And we do not expect to persuade the inhabitants of, say, Mulhouse to change the name of their town to Mousehole. The best we can

hope for is to adapt the product somewhat - to package it more attractively for the Continental market. For example, they use a lot of abstract nouns over there, both the Latins and the Teutons. In fact, our nearest neighbours are a bit short of interesting nouns. We feel there's a market here that can be exploited. Our names have a concreteness they find hard to match.

Challenged to name examples of exportable nomenclature, Mr Stoke-Tukeley revealed that some names have already been distributed to European outlets pending a gala launch. "These are our pioneering Euro-nouns," said Mr Stoke-Tukeley,

whose own name is not thought to be readily marketable. "They are fresh, they are adaptable, and I believe they will catch on with the professional lexicographer and the ordinary word-user alike. And don't forget, they are all British."

The list is as follows: Le Wantage (Fr): shortfall, margin of error. Hence (fig) desire, longing. Der Cirenoster (Ger): one who stops an alarm sounding a killoy, a wet duvet. Le Torquay (Fr): Hungarian-style sweet wine imported from the English Riviera. Il Truro (It): Etruscan tourist.



BRITAIN'S TORVILL AND DEAN: A private audience and national longing.

ICE DANCING

Sweethearts on parade

According to our Sports Editor, there was not a dry eye in the country during last year's world ice dance championship in Helsinki, as those skating sweethearts of the nation, Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean, walked the tightrope of "Barnum" to their third title.

Can they do it once more, to satisfy a national longing as well as a private ambition? The recent European championships suggest they can, and should, for they comprehensively beat last year's runner-up, Natalya Bestemianova, a Russian fireball, supported by Andrei Bukin. Here was a minor setback in one of the compulsory, and a more serious one in the original set pattern pas de deux that defied belief when two judges placed them second on a technicality. One would have thought the British pas de deux was at least 0.5 better than any other in the competition. Nine firms, however, in the free dance put aside all doubt.

Yet this was not the best performance they have given, since Dean, under heavy pressure perhaps from the risk he was taking with a single rhythm, to Ravel's "Bolero", was visibly ill at ease. Now, with the worry of "Bolero's" acceptability out of the way, we might hope that Sarajevo will inspire him to his brilliant best.

In the ordinary way Judy Blumberg and Michel Seibert, the American champions, would have hoped to make an advance from third place in the world championships last year, but they have a mountain to climb. Seibert has been struck down this winter with glandular fever and, for all that they recorded sixes in their national championships a week ago, it is hard to believe that he will be strong enough for such a demanding test.

There will be changes of nationality in the judging panel compared with Budapest, of course, with notably the United States and Canada represented, two countries with a strong competitive interest who have shown an independence of mind and who might not be expected slavishly to follow the European example. Torvill and Dean may have to win them over on their own outstanding merits if they should happen to lose support elsewhere.

Friday, February 10 (compulsory dances); Sunday, February 12 (original set pattern); Tuesday, February 14 (free dance).

PAIRS SKATING



ELENA VALOVA/OLEG VASILEV: Russia's world and European champions.

Having dislodged the holders of the world pairs championship last year and repeated the medicine in the European championships last month, Elena Valova and Oleg Vasiliev look set for the gold medals at Sarajevo. In Budapest, though, the Russians sensed a less exciting prospect and one would not want too readily to dismiss the chance of the Canadians, Barbara Underhill and Paul Martin. Susan Garland and Ian Jenkins skate for Britain, with a place in the top 10 as a realistic aim.

Friday, February 10 (short program); Sunday, February 12 (free skating).

MEN'S FIGURE SKATING

Hamilton under attack

Scott Hamilton shares with Torvill and Dean the distinction of leading the parade of the skaters with three world titles, since he rose to the top with them in 1981. He has not been able to dominate his discipline in quite the way the British couple have, for strong opposition has been mounted in Europe as well as on his own doorstep.

The attack is triple-pronged, from three men of vastly different approaches to ice skating. Alexander Fadeyev (Soviet Union) is the new European champion, like Hamilton something of a jumping machine with a triple axel in combination, if you

please. Kuni Gerni (West Germany) is the artist among modern pairs skaters, combining something of the best of both worlds with his partner, Nancy Hennrich. Northern Schumacher, also of West Germany, is the flashy cat, but his skating at Budapest was marred by a crash and a triple lutz figure.

For Paul Robinson, of Blackpool, who has yet to win the British championship, Sarajevo represents a voyage of discovery more than anything else.

Monday, February 13 (compulsory figures); Tuesday, February 14 (short program); Wednesday, February 15 (free skating).

WOMEN'S FIGURE SKATING

Sumners in the clear

The hope among the women skaters is that the standard will rise above the weak offering in the European championships in Budapest. In these circumstances, the way seems clear for Rosalynn Sumners to repeat her world championship victory for the United States in Helsinki last year.

Judging by Budapest, the only threat would seem to come from her compatriots Tiffany Chin, aged 16 and weighing 5st, and Elaine Zayak, the 1982 champion, who was forced to withdraw from Helsinki in a flood of tears because of injury. Miss Zayak's strength is her superlative jumping, but a new rule to curb triples might almost

have been designed with her specifically in mind.

Katerina Witt, 15, of East Germany, might have been expected by now to have matured into a skater of outstanding quality, but as in the way with young women she has suffered a decline in her athletic powers since her adolescence, without compensatory increase in choreographic appeal.

Susan Jackson, of Nottingham, is the new British champion, still adjusting to a removal to Richmond for training purposes.

Wednesday, February 15 (compulsory figures); Thursday, February 16 (short program); Saturday, February 18 (free skating).

ICE HOCKEY

Looking for a miracle

When the fresh-faced college boys representing the USA beat the Soviet Union 4-3 in the last Olympics - in the wake of the Afghanistan invasion and the seizure of the American hostages in Iran - the whole nation celebrated the return of its lost pride (Robert Pryce writes). ABC made a film of the triumph, which they called *Miracle on Ice*.

In 1980 the Soviets might as well have been called Herb Brooks, the remote and fearsome American coach, was saying - have been ripe for the taking, but the current team wears a leaner look. The new generation of players - the majestic Fetisov, the clever Larionov, the predatory Krutov - are more aggressive, especially in their opponent's end.

The veteran of the team will be Vladislav Tretiak, the net-minder who, at the age of 31, will be competing in his fourth Olympic. He conceded only four goals in seven games as the Soviet Union won a fifth consecutive world championship last year, and will be attempting to erase the humiliating memory of Lake Placid.

If the USA, without Brooks and with an even younger team than 1980, win the gold medal this time, ABC will have to find a word to exceed "miracle".

Final Sunday, February 19.

SPEED SKATING

We shall probably look in vain for another Eric Heiden in the speed skating events. Heiden's five gold medals at Lake Placid seem safe for the time being, if not for eternity. Times recorded in the Soviet Union this season suggest that Andrei Bobrov and Konstantin Korotkov might get among the medals, but those in the know favour the prospect of Rolf Falk-Larssen (Norway). Tomas Gustavsson (Sweden) and Gaetan Boucher (Canada) among the men, and a group of East Germans including Andrea Schöne among the women. Bryan Ambis, competing at the three longer distances, was the only British skater to survive a punishing qualifying standard.

Friday 9-18.

NORDIC SKIING

Koch plans revenge

Next week marks the twentieth anniversary of British bobsledding's most memorable triumph, when Tony Nash and Robin Dixon won the 1964 Olympic Games two-man event at Innsbruck (Chris Moore writes). It was the first time the British had won a medal in the sport since 1924, in Olympic competition. Sadly, it may also prove to be the last.

Not long ago, certainly when Nash and Dixon were competing, bobsledding was about man's courage and his ability to drive and read the ice. Nine times out of ten, the best driver won. Just as important, the majority still adhered to the old Olympic maxim that competing was more important than winning.

Modern technology has caught up with bobsledding in the same way that it became the crucial factor in Formula One motor racing.

You simply can't expect to compete against the sort of equipment the Russians and East Germans have developed," says Ma Hammond, manager of the British team, which is sponsored by Peter Stuyvesant. "The Russians only came into the sport three years ago, and there's no way their drivers are any better than ours. But their new sledges is unquestionably faster and that, combined with the fact all their crews are hand-picked athletes who have been training virtually full-time with the sole intention of winning the gold medal, is why they are such a force to be reckoned with."

A place in the top 10 finishers is the best Britain can realistically hope for in Sarajevo with the RAF's Tom De La Hunty looking our best bet in the two-man competition. Selection for the four-man event has proved a complicated process, still unresolved despite a race-off in St. Moritz three weeks ago. British champion John Deere missed out there, but forced his way back into the reckoning with the highest finish in last weekend's European championship in Igls.

Six men, six women in the cross-country. Saturday, February 12 (10km); Sunday, February 13 (15km); Tuesday, February 14 (30km); Thursday, February 16 (50km); Saturday, February 18 (100km).

BOBSLEIGH

Technology in control

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A Manglo-Saxon gazetteer

however... Russell Davies

Das Inverness (Ger): the state of being upside down; fuddlement, liability to fall over.

Le Swanage (Fr): the number of matches supplied in each box; hence, an approximate estimate.

I Pwllheli (It pl): ill-fitting false teeth (onomatopoeia).

Un Llossiemouth (It): one who suffers from *p-wllheli*. Les Beccles (Fr): children's plastic spectacles of a comic design, made in Hongkong.

Das Cardiff (Ger): the feeling of driving a right-hand drive vehicle for the first time.

Das Andover (Ger): (telev) signal given by producer, location manager etc, instructing presenter to "go back to studio"; any frantic or unavailing gesture.

Le Dungeness (Fr): German food.

Le, der Nuneaton (Fr, Ger): English food.

Le Ribble (Fr): (theatre) reluctant applause; a Continental audience.

Le Glamis (Fr): the indefinable fascination of the Royal Family; star quality; (vulg) money.

Das Tring (Ger): children's toy or working model with one important bit missing (from Old Eng *tri-ang*).

Una Ballymena (It): an extremely short and insignificant dancer; an understudy.

Le Lundy (Fr): long weekend, extra day off, truancy.

Der Bedwellty (Ger): incontinent patient.

Le Mumbles (Fr): a group of English visitors saying goodbye.

Miles Kingston will resume his Moreover column next Monday.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 261)

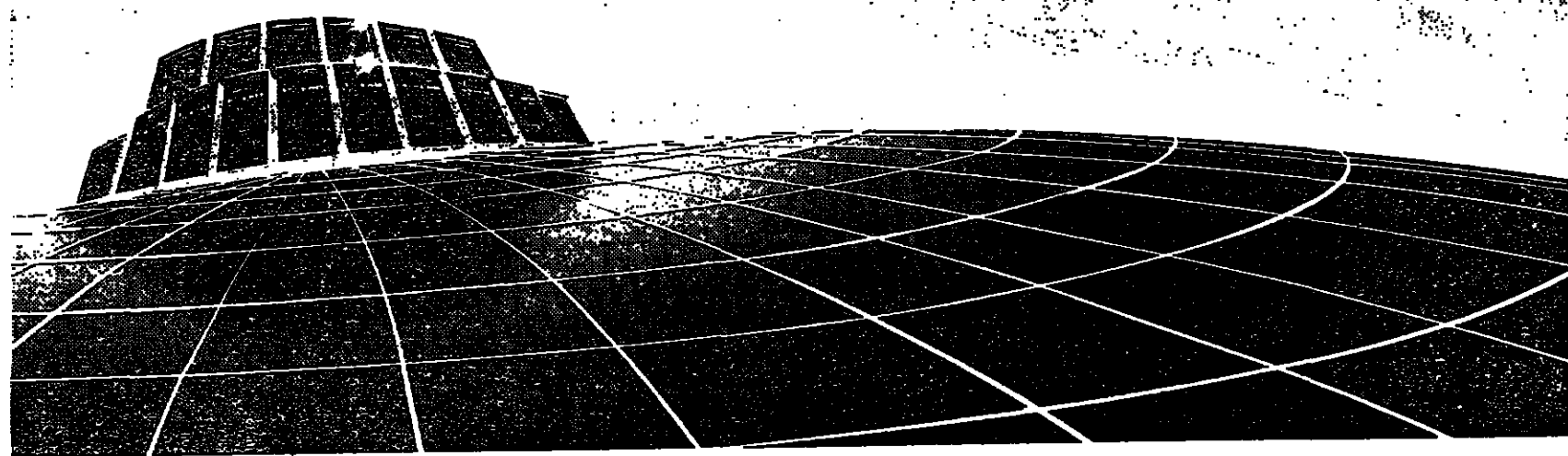
ACROSS

- Combination (6)
- Friday food (4)
- Urthel (5)
- Common version (7)
- Debit (5)
- Threesome (4)
- Final intention (4,5)
- Dispute (4)
- Indivisible (6)
- Character (6)
- Open air cinema (5,7)
- Dispute (5)
- Dispute (4)
- Cable (6)
- Down
- Two-point (5)
- Paddy (5)
- Chores (2,6,8)
- Sleep (5)
- Common town bird (7)
- Avery (5)
- Thames island (4)
- Underlight (8)
- Flamingo (4)
- Five-storied block (5)
- Notice (4)
- Walk heavily (4)
- Church council (5)
- Less apparent (5)
- Stumble (5)

SOLUTION TO No 260

ACROSS: 1 Star of David 2 Aurore 3 Apple 4 Day 5 Bath 6 Bond 7 Unless 8 Tomb 9 Tent 10 Mitten 11 Udder 12 Udder 13 Grov 14 Chela 15 Exotic 16 Quater 17 Street 18 Input 19 Rays 20 Field 21 Avery 22 Explore 23 Rabbit punch 24 Ready to wait 25 12 26 14 27 15 28 16 29 17 30 18 31 19 32 20 33 21 34 22 35 23 36 24 37 25 38 26 39 27 40 28 41 29 42 30 43 31 44 32 45 33 46 34 47 35 48 36 49 37 50 38 51 39 52 40 53 41 54 42 55 43 56 44 57 45 58 46 59 47 60 48 61 49 62 50 63 51 64 52 65 53 66 54 67 55 68 56 69 57 70 58 71 59 72 60 73 61 74 62 75 63 76 64 77 65 78 66 79 67 80 68 81 69 82 70 83 71 84 72 85 73 86 74 87 75 88 76 89 77 90 78 91 79 92 80 93 81 94 82 95 83 96 84 97 85 98 86 99 87 100 88 101 89 102 90 103 91 104 92 105 93 106 94 107 95 108 96 109 97 110 98 111 99 112 100 113 101 114 102 115 103 116 104 117 105 118 106 119 107 120 108 121 109 122 110 123 111 124 112 125 113 126 114 127 115 128 116 129 117 130 118 131 119 132 120 133 121 134 122 135 123 136 124 137 125 138 126 139 127 140 128 141 129 142 130 143 131 144 132 145 133 146 134 147 135 148 136 149 137 150 138 151 139 152 140 153 141 154 142 155 143 156 144 157 145 158 146 159 147 160 148 161 149 162 150 163 151 164 152 165 153 166 154 167 155 168 156 169 157 170 158 171 159 172 160 173 161 174 162 175 163 176 164 177 165 178 166 179 167 180 168 181 169 182 170 183 171 184 172 185 173 186 174 187 175 188 176 189 177 190 178 191 179 192 180 193 181 194 182 195 183 196 184 197 185 198 186 199 187 200 188 201 189 202 190 203 191 204 192 205 193 206 194 207 195 208 196 209 197 210 198 211 199 212 200 213 201 214 202 215 203 216 204 217 205 218 206 219 207 220 208 221 209 222 210 223 211 224 212 225 213 226 214 227 215 228 216 229 217 230 218 231 219 232 220 233 221 234 222 235 223 236 224 237 225 238 226 239 227 240 228 241 229 242 230 243 231 244 232 245 233 246 234 247 235 248 236 249 237 250 238 251 239 252 240 253 241 254 242 255 243 256 244 257 245 258 246 259 247 260 248 261 249 262 250 263 251 264 252 265 253 266 254 267 255 268 256 269 257 270 258 271 259 272 260 273 261 274 262 275 263 276 264 277 265 278 266 279 267 280 268 281 269 282 270 283 271 284 272 285 273 286 274 287 275 288 276 289 277 290 278 291 279 292 280 293 281 294 282 295 283 296 284 297 285 298 286 299 287 300 288 301 289 302 290 303 291 304 292 305 293 306 294 307 295 308 296 309 297 310 298 311 299 312 300 313 301 314 302 315 303 316 304 317 305 318 306 319 307 320 308 321 309 322 310 323 311 324 312 325 313 326 314 327 315 328 316 329 317 330 318 331 319 332 320 333 321 334 322 335 323 336 324 337 325 338 326 339 327 340 328 341 329 342 330 343 331 344 332 345 333 346 334 347 335 348 336 349 337 350 338 351 339 352 340 353 341 354 342 355 343 356 344 357 345 358 346 359 347 360 348 361 349 362 350 363 351 364 352 365 353 366 354 367 355 368 356 369 357 370 358 371 359 372 360 373 361 374 362 375 363 376 364 377 365 378 366 379 367 380 368 381 369 382 370 383 371 384 372 385 373 386 374 387 375 388 376 389 377 390 378 391 379 392 380 393 381 394 382 395 383 396 384 397 385 398 386 399 387 400 388 401 389 402 390 403 391 404 392 405 393 406 394 407 395 408 396 409 397 410 398

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THE TIMES DIARY

Directional pointers

Bets are being placed in knowledgeable circles on who will inherit the director-general's throne at the Institute of Directors when the present incumbent, the pugnacious Walter Goldsmith, ends his five-year term in June. The institute's top brass are cagey but rumour has named the likely runners for the prestigious and highly-paid position: they include Jock (now Lord) Bruce-Gardyne, former MP and *Times* columnist, and Sir Alfred Sherman, former communist soldier in the Spanish Civil War and quondam adviser to Number 10 who, until recently, was a member of the institute's shadowy ginger group, the Argonauts.

The smart money, though, is being placed on Sir John Hoskyns, the star of the IOD's 1983 annual lecture, one-time computer businessman and full-time scourge of the Civil Service. Yet it may be worth noting that Sir Alfred Sherman is scheduled to give this year's IOD lecture. Will he make as big a splash as did his former *Times* Tank colleague Sir John? "It won't be as contentious but I hope it will be controversial," said Sir Alfred modestly. There's no point in speaking unless it is.

The set jet

A new dimension appeared yesterday in the home video market. Commercial Video Arts, the award-winning producer of films used by 26,000 British organizations, including the government, has just released its first video for public sale. For £5.99 the buyer gets a three-hour blank cassette: blank, that is, save for a half-hour plug on behalf of British Airways' new upmarket Sovereign holiday package. "You can record over the top of it," a Video Arts spokesman said reassuringly.

BARRY FANTONI



"It's time right-wing adolescents had a magazine of their own"

Star quality

Queen Mary College, London, was endowed with a somewhat ethereal character in this august organ yesterday when a classified advertisement sought applications for research fellowships in the Theoretical Astrology Unit. I understand the typesetter was a Virgo.

Good mixer

A new cocktail bar in Ilford, Essex, has as one of its attractions an "excuse booth" from where the wayward drinker can telephone home to make his (or indeed her) apologies to the accompaniment of a taped background effect to authenticate the excuse. The 15 backgrounds range from that old stand-by the office to a traffic jam or even an insurrection. Better than the handkerchief over the mouthpiece and false accent, but I'm not convinced the service is a good enough excuse for spending an evening in Ilford.

Missing the bus

Jean Bakewell, the moving spirit of SLAP, the Society of London Arts Publicists, has failed to find a programme on BBC television for her platform. Her much publicized candidacy for the editorship of *Omnibus*, Auntie's arts showcase, has come to naught. An internal selection board chose instead Ian Squires, acting editor for the last *Omnibus* series, who so far has had little chance to make an impression since he inherited from his predecessor a batch of completed films and a sadly depleted budget.

● A member of the PHS appreciation society from Exeter reports that, with an average quarterly telephone bill of £20, he was recently invited by British Telecom to pay his account by regular instalments - the monthly amount suggested being £428.50.

Rhapsody in blue

The Sloanes' own dance band, The Dark Blues, were doing their best in the small hours this morning to take the Prime Minister's mind off the GCHQ-Geoffrey Howe imbroglio and other irritations. Performing at the true blue Winter Ball, held in the Grosvenor House Hotel, the Dark Blues were celebrating their twenty-first anniversary and Mrs Thatcher presented them with the framed copy of their first booking in 1963. In return, the band gave her copy number 1,000 of their limited edition first album, entitled - appropriately enough after 21 years - *Overdue*. Formed at Oxford University, The Dark Blues (Nigel Tully, Tom Wilkinson, Martin Cohen, Martin Roke and David Britain) have played at most of Britain's stately homes and at royal occasions such as the Queen's silver wedding party and Princess Anne's wedding ball. Oh, happy band.

PHS

Bernard Levin: the way we live now



Redgrave, Satch and Boaks: in the firing line of a conspiracy against free speech

Let the fringe have its fling

It is a truth not sufficiently appreciated that any political proposal which commends itself to both front benches of the House of Commons is at best useless and at worst against the public interest: one which also appeals to both main parties' back benches is likely to be a constitutional outrage and certain to be seriously damaging to the people's liberty, prosperity or both.

Such is the proposed Representation of the People Bill, of which it can be safely said that the matter of improving the people's representation never so much as entered the heads of the Conservative and Labour politicians who took part in the discussions that led to the Government's White Paper, their sole concern being to reinforce and extend their monopoly of power, or to put it in plain English, to get more of their bread into more of our gravy: it's God's mercy that they didn't include a provision to double their own salaries and link their pensions to an automatic annual increase of four times the rate of inflation, and they will probably try to shove that bit in on the Report stage if we don't watch out, or even if we do.

In case there is any monoglot Kalmuck newly arrived among us this morning who does not understand what I am talking about, I had better make clear that it is not the extension of the franchise to those on holiday: what makes me think more kindly of Guy Fawkes, Oliver Cromwell and the German pilot who scored a direct hit on the House of Commons during the Blitz is the proposed intention to raise the electoral deposit to a thousand pounds. (The original plan had been to make it two thousand pounds, but they magnanimously changed their minds in the course of the discussions. Ah, *messieurs, quelle délicatesse!*)

The arguments with which this shameful measure has been supported are impudent even beyond the calls of self-interest. First, it is said that when the deposit was instituted (in 1918) the value of money was much greater, so that in equivalent terms £150 should be even more than £1,000. Oh yes? And what, pray, was the standard percentage of income-tax at that time? And what were average rates? And where was VAT? And how many more of the impost, multitudes, duties, levies, tariffs, licences, excises, fees, dues, tolls, assessments, *gabelles*, and capitations now laid upon our backs then existed? And how many small parties or unemanded Independents

were interested in contesting elections? And when is the cost of a dog-licence going to be raised, in line with the rate of inflation, for the first time since it was instituted, in 1878? (When dog-owners cease to have votes, that's when.)

Second, it is claimed that the cost to the state of a candidature at a parliamentary election is much higher than £150, so that candidates with no hope of election are being subsidized. So they are: so are the candidates with hope of election, and they are quite determined to keep things that way, for the only substantial state-paid election cost that can be attributed to individual candidates is the free mailing to all voters which every candidate is entitled to claim, and this does not in practice benefit "fringe" candidates at all, since very few of them can afford the printing of the leaflets which the free postal service would distribute, and even fewer have the manpower to address and fill the envelopes. In other words, the argument against subsidizing candidates does not apply to the new proposal's victims, but it does apply to the incumbents: the cost of the free mailing for the Conservative and Labour parties in a general election (reckoning it as second-class post) is roughly £10m.

Next, it is contended that the proliferation of eccentric candidates tends to bring the election process into disrepute, a charge which, when I first read it, had the unprecedented effect of rendering me incapable of speech for nearly half an hour; beside the Hattersleys and Healeys, the Protons and Dickens, screaming Lord Sutch was a model of dignity and political uprightness, and a bloody sight funnier into the bargain.

But all that is only by way of refutation of the false claims made on behalf of the new Bill. Much more important is the fact that it will damage democracy, which is no doubt why the Home Office is in favour of it, the attitude of the present Home Secretary to democracy being the same as that of a Victorian maiden aunt to masturbation - he has no idea what it is and would not dream of asking, but is convinced that it makes you go

blind. Cannot the two main parties lift their eyes for a moment over the rim of the trough and see how important to the vigour and health of our political life is a constant ebb and flow of people and groups who refuse allegiance to the established parties, and how essential it is that such people and groups shall have full access to the political system in all its forms, most particularly in its electoral aspect?

If we are going to deny to the Communist Party and the National Front, the SWP and Vanessa's Looies, the Ecology Party and Commander Bill Boaks, the genuine (as opposed to purely theoretical) right to put up as full a slate of candidates as they wish and can afford, and if we are going to go even further and deny that right to all but a rich handful of the brave and splendid men and women who stand as genuine Independents, unattached even to the smallest and weirdest of the political group-cules, then we might as well deny them free speech as well, together with the right to publish their views and to solicit support for them. (I wouldn't be in the least surprised to learn that a discussion paper containing just such proposals is circulating in the Home Office at this very moment.)

If economic monopolies, whether of capital or labour, are inimical to economic advance, how much more are political monopolies to political progress! Just imagine a political Britain in which the Conservative and Labour parties have their way, and extinguish altogether every rival variety of political appeal, starting with the Alliance, against whom, of course, this measure is chiefly directed. Both parties are at present ossified and bureaucratic to an extent which renders them largely indistinguishable from whichever prehistoric monster it was that took 20 minutes to register, with its brain the fact that a rival had bitten its tail off, give them another inch of exclusive political rights and they will take another dozen miles of arrogance, chicanery and selfishness.

No doubt the Labour Party will assert that it is not responsible for a government Bill, and - since the contents of it were decided by a

Select Committee, not a Speaker's Conference - they are not committed to it. They may even, to keep up a show, attack the clause which gives an absentee vote to those British citizens living abroad. It will all be wool-pulling; this measure is the fruit of a corrupt bargain between Conservatives and Labour, and I do not think the adjective is too strong. All the main provisions of the Bill were agreed by the Select Committee; the fact is that in return for Labour support over the holiday franchise (believed by psephologists to favour the Tories) the Government has offered the lowering of the deposit-losing share of the vote from one-eighth to one-twentieth, thus sparing the Labour Party such hideous and damaging humiliations as their 119 lost deposits of 1983, for under the proposed new rule they would have lost fewer than a dozen. (It is, I may add, particularly dishonest of Labour to sell itself in this fashion, for the original deposit was brought in to limit the chances of the nascent Labour Party, as the present change is designed to hinder the Alliance.)

When this matter was discussed, last week, on Sir Robin Day's *Question Time*, before a studio audience, Dr Rhodes Boyson, for the Tories, put forward the argument that the Bill was to be commended because it would discourage "extremist parties". It is a measure of the political vanity which grips the two main parties that even a normally merry and realistic fellow like Dr Boyson can thus render himself incapable of noticing that an extremist party, while it remains within the law, has as much right to propagate its doctrines as he has. And that "incapable of noticing" is the literal truth: so imbued are both main parties with the belief that they are entitled to all the political power and patronage and pelf that our system offers them, which is no little, that they have no idea how monstrous, and how dangerous, is their determination to change the law to ensure that not even the smallest challenge to their monopoly may be mounted except on crippling financial terms.

It is worth recording the fact that when Sir Robin put the question to the audience, a great majority - at least two to one - were against the proposal. But implicitly opposed as the established politicians are to sharing power with their less official rivals, they are a hundred times more adamant that they will never share it with the people.

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Robin Cook

What price loyalty in this market?

It is a fine irony that GCHQ Cheltenham should find itself in the forefront of resistance to the steady erosion of our civil liberties by a centralizing government increasingly impatient of dissent. Here we have an institution which listens in, not just to Russians and Albanians, but also to the international communications of its fellow citizens, sitting through myriad innocent conversations in search of a hint of subversion. Here, of all places, we find the rallying point for the defence of a fundamental freedom and discovery of a libertarianism for Civil Liberties already enlisted under its standard.

But the situation abounds with ironies. The work at Cheltenham, we are told, is essential to our national security and the defence of our freedoms. In the next breath we are also told that the workforce can do the job only if it surrenders its share in a part of those freedoms. It is imperative that this workforce be loyal to the state: but the Government has sought to ensure its loyalty by a measure which might have been calculated to incite disaffection.

The manner in which the Government has promoted GCHQ into this uncomfortable prominence is deeply revealing about the present administration's judgment of values. Several thousand citizens are to be forced to surrender their civil and legal rights to free association.

It is presumed that their acquiescence will be secured by a single payment of £1,000. The glimpse which this base offer provides into the undoubted faith of this government in the cash nexus is chilling. The nation is but a grocer's shop in which even our liberties have their price.

Then there is the total incomprehension with which Sir Geoffrey Howe and Mrs Thatcher have responded to the explosion of rage among the staff at the implicit criticism of their loyalty or reliability. Here is a workforce which plainly shares the government's perception of its job as vital to national security and which takes pride in competently executing it through the most advanced electronic technology.

Yet the Cabinet appears incapable of recognizing that professional pride, far less of using it to foster willing dedication. The grocer's mark-up does not contain any allowance for professional commitment. How can job satisfaction or professional ethics be entered in the balance sheet when they are incapable of monetary expression?

In this respect, what is happening at Cheltenham is repeated across the country as the ruthless promotion of economic individualism and market priorities by Thatcherism collides with professional ethics. The conflict was inevitable, as the very existence

of a profession implies a collective discipline and most public sector manpower has to function as part of a collective team - be it in electronic eavesdropping or the provision of health care.

The other weekend, in an unusual role reversal, I went along to a demonstration addressed by my wife, whom I have not known make a public speech since we were at university together. We gathered, stamping our feet in the frozen snow, to mark a "non-open day" of a day centre for the elderly which was completed and furnished last June and at once mothballed as a result of the July expenditure cuts. Through the windows we could see the pristine cleanliness and the furniture stacked with the delivery tags still dangling from them.

My wife was speaking because she is a consultant at the local hospital. For the first time in her career she was driven to addressing an audience other than medical students by the contradiction between her professional obligations to her patients and the effect on them of policy decisions. It is a tension which many of her profession are now encountering.

On the same weekend a university professor warned of an educational Dark Age if universities are obliged to travel further down the road of relying on the market to finance them, or if research is to be dependent on private contract. He was not an arts professor specializing in some *recherché* area of learning, but the head of department of building science - a subject of demonstrable utility, even under the present government, which has not quite eliminated the requirement for a construction industry.

There is a thread joining the professor and my wife and the threatened analysis of Cheltenham. It is a thread spun through antipathy to a government that does not understand any professional motivation which does not spring from financial reward and does not respect any skill or service which cannot be hawked in the market place.

And when it has established the brave new Thatcherite Utopia in which we each behave as individual economic units, competition is the only game in town. It will have destroyed more than the collective ethos necessary to sustain free access to health care on the basis of need, or equal access to education on the basis of ability. It will also have sapped all those other sources of professional commitment, such as the desire to heal, or to treasure knowledge - and also that loyalty to his country which has given the analyst at GCHQ pride in believing that he contributes to its security.

The author is Labour MP for Livingston.

Roger Scruton

The front line starts here

I wonder how many readers of *The Times* share my astonishment at the recent criticism (if so mild a word suffices to describe the excited baying of hostile politicians) of Sir Geoffrey Howe for having "concealed" the "fourth option" proposed to the Civil Service workers at the Cheltenham intelligence centre.

Suppose a doctor were to answer an anxious inquiry from a patient in these terms: "There are three possibilities: you may recover immediately; it may take a little while; or you may suffer a permanent disability." Did the doctor "conceal" a fourth possibility, which only a tactless fool would wish to make explicit - that the patient might die? Or did he simply fail to mention it? And why mention what both parties know - the event which, if it occurs, will sever their relations for ever?

Suppose an employer offers an employee a terms of work. He may say: "There are three possibilities. Either you can stay in a union and work elsewhere; you can take another position; or you can remain in your present post, leaving the union, and accepting compensation." Has he "concealed" that fourth alternative, which only a tactless fool would wish to make explicit - that the employment might come to an end? Or did he simply fail to mention it?

The analogy is of course imperfect. The modern contract of employment is not always ended by dismissal, but may merely be breached. The employee's rights then become a claim for compensation. Perhaps Sir Geoffrey did not sufficiently remind himself of this fact. But why all the fuss? After all, he is only the Foreign Secretary, not God. And the principle remains. A worker who will not comply with the only conditions upon which work can continue to be offered must be dismissed.

The relation which used to be known to the law as that of master and servant, but which is now known as that of employer and employee, acquired its present legal character partly as a result of socialist ways of thinking, which stressed the element of unfreedom in the position of the worker, whose life depends upon his job. It is alien to the socialist mentality to believe that even a private employer has the right to employ someone on his own terms; still less can the state have such a right.

There is much in the socialist view of human relations and of the state that is persuasive and good. But we must remind ourselves of the fact that it frequently overlooks the state exists first and foremost to protect its citizens. It has no duty greater than that of defence, and for a government to elevate any single duty above that of defence is

unreasonable at such a point all legitimacy expires.

In the conditions of modern warfare, effective defence depends upon effective and closely guarded intelligence. Whatever threatens the collecting and safeguarding of military intelligence threatens the life of the nation more directly and more deeply than any local restriction of civil rights. If the Government has good reasons to believe that union activity will threaten intelligence operations, it is not merely permissible, but obligatory, to curtail trade union rights. This is as much an obligation as it is an obligation to ensure that the army shall not be subject to any command other than that of the sovereign.

Perhaps there was a time when it could be assumed that no one would ever have to choose between his union and his country. But, if it ever existed, that time has passed. Almost all our present military resources are directed towards countering the threat posed by the Soviet Union. And increasingly, implicitly, non-negotiable, the Soviet Union devotes its energies and resources to undermining our capacity to counter that threat. It lends support to "peace movements" everywhere (except in the territories that it already controls); it seeks to win the hearts and minds of western labour movements to its side; and it seeks to turn every decent socialist feeling into ideal to its own advantage by encouraging a "socialist" interpretation of events, according to which western disarmament and Soviet power are both in the long-term interests of "the people" everywhere.

The "peace and disarmament" theme has therefore been made a central issue by the Soviet Union in its discussions with the hundreds of trade union delegations which have visited the USSR since the beginnings of détente. In this and many other ways, Moscow has been working to manoeuvre the trade union movement in the West into a position strategically favourable to Soviet power. It is no doubt with considerable gratification that it contemplates the present state of affairs. It is now true that no trade union national centre within the Nato area - with the sole exception of the French *Force Ouvrière* - expresses support for Nato's accepted defence policies.

The Government must inevitably respond to the dangers inherent in this situation; not to do so is to fail in its principal duty. It can offer employment at Cheltenham only on terms dictated by military necessity. And military necessity may very well require not a "no strike" agreement but the total removal of trade union authority from Cheltenham.

Colin Harding examines some alternatives to the Kissinger report

Reagan, off course in a sea of words

The paper war over Central America is intensifying. Even as Dr Henry Kissinger was marshalling the forces of his bipartisan commission in Washington earlier this month, the *Pearlman Press* was rushing out a volume of critical essays in conjunction with the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. The Labour Party has also fired a broadside of its own.

Taken together, these two volumes constitute a comprehensive critique of current US policies towards the region with a series of recommendations for how they should be modified. The Labour Party document, *Kissinger's Kingdom*, is, as the title suggests, explicitly billed as a counter to the Kissinger report. It is an often impassioned polemic against US policy towards El Salvador, Nicaragua and Honduras, prepared by two Labour MPs after a seven-day visit to the region in December.

The *Pearlman/Carnegie* volume is not specifically designed as a rebuttal of the Kissinger commission's findings, but it makes substantially the same points as the Holland-Anderson pamphlet while seeking a "fresh start" to the US national debate on Central American policy. It is a formidable volume, with contributors drawn from different points of the political spectrum, ranging from former Carter administration officials to conservative specialists on Soviet foreign policy. All are united in their view that US policies are wrong-headed and counter-productive.

The Reagan administration has regarded Central America as a cold war problem, as an area vital to US national security interests because of Cuban/Soviet expansion in the region, through the Sandinista regime which took power in Nicaragua in 1979, and the FMLN (Farabundo Martí Liberation Front) guerrillas struggling to overthrow the government of El Salvador. A new variant on the domino theory suggests that Honduras, Guatemala and Mexico could fall, bringing Soviet-backed forces to the very border of the United States.

US policy therefore has focused on the need to "save" Central America from the communists.



These fears are dismissed in the Labour Party paper as fantasy, but the *Pearlman* essays accept that the United States has legitimate security interests in Central America, and some reason to be concerned at the overtly pro-Soviet leanings of some of the Sandinista *comandantes*.

However, both Robert Leiken and Joseph Cirincione find exaggerated the notion that Nicaragua might still constitute a military threat to the United States.

They, and other contributors, argue that the moment of Soviet/Cuban expansion, in the Western Hemisphere has passed, that the Soviet Union is not prepared to make a big commitment to Nicaragua, either economically or militarily, and that such Soviet weapons as the Sandinistas have acquired are purely defensive.

American pressure on Nicaragua has, however, continued as though it were an aggressive military power. The Kissinger report proposes that US support for the *contra* guerrillas based in Honduras should continue. Against this, Leiken and others argue that the United States should completely eschew the military option represented by ever-increasing aid to the *Salvadorean* armed forces and to the right-wing *contras*. Military aid to El Salvador merely shores up a military caste incapable of reforming itself and impervious to US pressures to behave in a more or less civilized manner towards its own people.

Both the *Pearlman* and Labour Party volumes call for what Leiken terms "historical compromise", a

regional settlement involving all the contending forces that can be achieved only by negotiations.

Acceptance by the United States of the need for a negotiated regional political settlement would require a fundamental change in present ways of thinking about the region. This is what the *Pearlman/Carnegie* contributors seek, arguing that clichés, simplistic analogies and plain ignorance have characterized US attitudes towards Central America, not just now but for many years.

President Calvin Coolidge used the threat of a supposed Bolshevik conspiracy to justify sending marines to Nicaragua in 1927, for example. They stayed for six years, installed the Somoza family in power, trained the National Guard and, with the best of intentions, paved the way for a dynastic dictatorship that lasted until 1979.

Howard Wiarda of the *Pearlman/Carnegie* essays are their strong plea for modesty in US foreign policy aims towards Central America. This implies shedding the illusion that outright military victory is possible - Nicaragua is not Grenada - and adjusting expectations to what is really possible. As Leiken says, Central American problems must ultimately be resolved by Central Americans.

Central America: Anatomy of Conflict, edited by Robert S. Leiken. *Pearlman Press*, £13.95; and Kissinger's Kingdom, by Stuart Holland and Donald Anderson, *Spokesman Books*, £2.25.

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BORROWED TIME IN BEIRUT

The "progress" which President Reagan claimed to be making in Lebanon in his State of the Union address was hard enough to discern at the time. A fortnight later there can be no doubt. So far from making progress, Lebanon yesterday had relapsed into full-scale civil war, reminiscent of the darkest days of 1976, with the army and government splitting apart once more on confessional lines. With no Muslim leader of significance willing to serve under him, President Amin Gemayel - in whom a year ago so many hopes of a revived and reunited Lebanon were vested - is now, however much he may wish it otherwise, reduced to being the President of one sect and one party. He is as isolated as President Salim Haddad was in the spring of 1976.

Mr. Frangieh then clung to the Syrians, and they came to his rescue. Mr. Gemayel clings to the Americans, but they are close to concluding that he is beyond help. Publicly Mr. Shulz blames Syria (which in Lebanon is almost like blaming the weather) and the US Congress. Discussions with Syria, he says, "did get somewhere at a time when we appeared more forceful, but as we have continuing resolutions introduced in our Congress and discussions that are generated by that, the Syrians basically just become totally intransigent, and that's the position they are in now".

More discreetly, American officials blame President Gemayel himself. Ever since the end of August, they say, the US has been urging him to get rid of the non-political Wazzan government and bring in high-level representatives of the Shiite and Druze factions in a government of national reconciliation. Mr. Gemayel has been either unable or unwilling to do that.

If they are honest, the Americans should admit that part of the blame for this attaches to their own policy. At the head of the list of opposition demands, and therefore the main sticking-

point in the process of national reconciliation, was the abrogation of the May 17 Israeli-Lebanese agreement. In Geneva last November Mr. Gemayel was at least halfway to conceding that it was the Americans, as well as members of his own family and party, who pulled him back from that concession and encouraged him to stick firm.

Mr. Shulz, who negotiated the May 17 agreement, takes a natural paternal interest in its fate. Indeed, had it been implemented, the agreement would have been an important step in the right direction. But, as the Israeli opposition pointed out at the time, it had "non-implementation built into it". For Israel, with US approval, made implementation conditional on simultaneous Syrian withdrawal - thereby handing President Assad a veto which he did not hesitate to exercise.

Mr. Shulz was warned at the time, by his ambassador in Damascus among others, that there was no chance of Syria accepting the agreement. He brushed this aside, believing he could generate enough "moderate" Arab pressure to bring Syria round. That is still, it seems, American strategy. An unnamed White House official, quoted in the *New York Times*, says it is "important to discuss with other Arabs the possibility of putting counterpressure on Syria".

Something like a new Baghdad pact is in the air, composed of America's friends (Syria and Iran's enemies) in the Arab and Muslim worlds: Iraq, Jordan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Pakistan, perhaps even Mr. Yasser Arafat - though the mere mention of his name reminds us that this new constellation will not mesh easily with the other strand of America's anti-Syrian strategy, namely cooperation with Israel. All this, if worked out at an informal and practical level, may have some defensive value. But that it can force Syria to retreat in Lebanon, where she is in a position of strength, seems most unlikely.

It had to be faced, May 17, whatever its theoretical merits, is a dead letter. Even if Israel now dropped the precondition of simultaneous Syrian withdrawal, there is no prospect of a Lebanese government capable of implementing the agreement. The problem now is to find a Lebanese government capable of halting the civil war, presiding over the orderly departure of a majority of the British people. Yet (your report continues) this appeal has brought an angry protest from Britain and the Greek Ambassador in London "was told recently by the Foreign Office of its extreme annoyance that Greece had failed to consult Britain before joining such an unorthodox venture on a matter of direct concern to the British people".

We hope that the Greek Ambassador will be assured that a great part of British opinion welcomes the initiative of his Prime Minister and deplores the meretricious meddling in Greek affairs of the British Foreign Office. 2. You have also reported (and our own private information confirms) that the Soviet security police continue, week after week, to harass the Moscow Group for the Establishment of Trust between the USA and the USSR. In particular we learn that Dr. Olga Medvedkova is threatened shortly with trial on the absurd charge of assaulting the police.

Few things would give more dismay to many supporters of the peace movement in West Europe and the USA. The trial of Dr. Medvedkova would symbolise, in a brutal manner, the closing of the books against each other and the end of informal attempts at direct citizen exchange.

Against all the odds we maintain our view that the future of peace depends upon detaching public opinion (East as well as West) from the inexorable logic of block confrontation and enlarging informal exchanges and dialogue. These two episodes (one in Moscow and one in London) reveal the impotence of both sides, which refuse to permit any healing process to commence. Yours faithfully, E. P. THOMPSON, DOROTHY THOMPSON, Wick, Essex, Upper Wick, Worcester.

Bars to healing in East and West

From Mr and Mrs E. P. Thompson

Sir, In a time of international deadlock may we write to express our own anger about two matters? 1. Your report (January 19) that President Ceausescu, of Romania, and Mr. Andreas Papandreu, the Greek Prime Minister, have addressed a joint letter to President Reagan and President Andropov deploring the deployment of nuclear missiles in Europe. We would suppose that this evenhanded initiative would carry the support of a majority of the British people.

Yet (your report continues) this appeal has brought an angry protest from Britain and the Greek Ambassador in London "was told recently by the Foreign Office of its extreme annoyance that Greece had failed to consult Britain before joining such an unorthodox venture on a matter of direct concern to the British people".

We hope that the Greek Ambassador will be assured that a great part of British opinion welcomes the initiative of his Prime Minister and deplores the meretricious meddling in Greek affairs of the British Foreign Office. 2. You have also reported (and our own private information confirms) that the Soviet security police continue, week after week, to harass the Moscow Group for the Establishment of Trust between the USA and the USSR. In particular we learn that Dr. Olga Medvedkova is threatened shortly with trial on the absurd charge of assaulting the police.

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Looking to successor for 'work ethic'

From the Dean of St Paul's

Sir, There are now well over a million people who have been unemployed for more than a year. A quarter of this number are under 25 and are at risk. Many of them have no alternative but to wander around without hope or purpose. Others between 25 and 65 suffer from moral isolation and social deprivation. The more visible evidence is in alcoholism, drug abuse, and the decline of social and family life in neighbourhood and local communities where long-term unemployment may be concentrated.

Central government is helping through MSC and other agencies to create training and short-term employment opportunities. Useful as these schemes are, they can only be viewed as palliatives. There must be an acceptance that our work-based society, as it is understood today, is running out of paid work opportunities for many of its workpeople.

With this acceptance must come statutory requirements for job-sharing, restrictions of overtime working, long-service leave, early retirement and greater income sharing, but these do not reach to the heart of the matter.

Changes emanating from central government can only be effective over a decade or so. In the meantime the wealth-creators in industry and commerce should acknowledge the problem of long-term unemployment as part of their responsibility. Modern management, it is commonly accepted, has not only a responsibility to shareholders and employees but a social responsibility as well.

I therefore appeal to the wealth-creators in our country, both corporate and individual, to be alert and to respond to the resource requirements of responsible voluntary bodies, the value of whose service to our community increases as the pruning of public expenditure continues. I write this as chairman of a working party representing national voluntary organisations who are seeking greater participation and support.

As a churchman I long to see more use being made of the unique resources possessed by 30,000 churches of all denominations throughout Great Britain. May I use your columns to inform readers of an organisation, Church Action with the Unemployed, which seeks to support and encourage local churches in their work with unemployed people.

Finally, I believe we need an intensive national debate on the future structure of our society. Should we seek a new "life ethic" to replace the "work ethic" and what form should this take?

Yours faithfully, ALAN WEBSTER, The Deanery, 9 Amen Court, EC4, February 3.

Late abortions

From Professor E. A. Alberman and others

Sir, We are writing to you as members of the steering committee of the research report of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists' study of *Late Abortion in England and Wales*.

Your report on page 3 of *The Times*, January 19, gives the impression of an enormous problem posed by delays in the National Health Service and exaggerates the size of this problem.

We were anxious to point out that there was indeed a problem of unnecessary administrative delay in many late abortions. However, the third paragraph of your report is misleading. What it should have said was that one in five of women who had their abortions between the twentieth and twenty-seventh week had been referred by the thirteenth week.

Since the total number of late abortions carried out after the nineteenth week of pregnancy represents around 1.5 per cent of the abortion patients resident in this country it is only a small number of

women who experience very long delays. The NHS systems for dealing with these patients, though cumbersome and imperfect, do not deserve as much censure as your report suggests.

Your leader in the same day's *Times* focuses on a separate issue - the definition of foetal viability - which was not the subject of our report. This affects not only the Infant Life Preservation Act 1929 mentioned by your correspondent, Lord Robertson (January 19), but also stillbirth and infant death registration among other statutory requirements.

A debate about this separate issue is under way within the medical profession, and it is to be hoped that a consensus will emerge later in the year. Yours faithfully, EVA ALBERMAN, S. L. BARRON, ANN CARTWRIGHT, C. JOHN DENNIS, CAROL JONES, ROSALIND STANWELL-SMITH, Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, 27 Sussex Place, Regent's Park, NW1, January 20.

"The basic grade for any executive officer (including a senior executive officer, like the applicant) was that of clerical officer. That meant that any senior executive officer who was regressed must accept a demotion to the grade of clerical officer. Before the agreement in 1975, the basic grade for all executive officers (including all senior ones) was that of executive officer.... the respondents had no reasonable alternative but to regress Colonel Waite."

My personal request for a copy of this 1975 agreement, or further information about it, resulted in a letter from the Treasury Solicitor in July, 1981, advising that there was no knowledge of such a document. It was suggested that the reference was to an agreement between GCHQ (not the Civil Service Department) and the unions in 1972 (not 1975).

Faced with learned counsel at the Employment Appeal Tribunal, my argument that single departments could not fetter their discretionary powers on retirement, as laid down by the Lords Commissioners of her Majesty's Treasury in 1952 and never rescinded, failed to hold.

All of these legal proceedings are now over, but it is refreshing to know that in future all such decisions will be made at GCHQ based only on considerations of operational efficiency.

Yours faithfully, D. J. BENSON, 6 Robson Road, Worthing, West Sussex, January 26.

GCHQ dismissal

From Mr D. J. Benson

Sir, In your account (January 26) of the background to the latest Government Communications Headquarters affair reference was made to the legal action initiated by Lieutenant-Colonel John Waite concerning his employment there.

To remove any possible doubt, it should be made clear that neither his action in this matter nor mine was assisted or supported by any union. Indeed, it was precisely because GCHQ considered it necessary to agree to an early promotions early retirement policy instigated by the unions that we approached the Industrial Tribunal.

Our efforts were successful at that level, but failed in law at later stages. No orders as to costs were made against Lieutenant-Colonel Waite in either the Court of Appeal or the House of Lords.

As shown on the record of a hearing of the Industrial Tribunal at Cheltenham on January 22, 1982, GCHQ felt bound by a union agreement:

...the respondents could not retain him, on the same job, until he was 65 because of an agreement made in 1975 between the Civil Service Department and the appropriate unions. The agreement was made to ensure that for younger civil servants there would be appropriate avenues in which they would be advanced.

Student prospects

From the President of the National Union of Students

Sir, Readers of your front page article on graduate employment prospects (January 19) may have been led to believe that graduates will find it much easier to get jobs this year. Although I recognise that there may be some slight improvement in the outlook for 1984 graduates, I must point out that the overall picture compared to a few years ago remains bleak.

During the late 1970s between 5 per cent and 6 per cent of first degree graduates from universities and polytechnics were still unemployed at the end of the year in which they graduated. But in 1980 the proportion of unemployed graduates almost doubled and it has continued to rise since. In 1982, the last year for which figures are available, the figure stood at 13 per cent.

These figures do not take account of the fact that many first degree graduates do not enter the employment market immediately. Over 25,000 of this year's graduates are expected to go on to further education or training and a further 13,000 will go abroad (mostly overseas students returning home).

When these and other factors are taken into account it becomes clear that out of every six graduates who start the summer looking for work there will still be at least one unemployed this time next year. During the 1960s and early 1970s students were prepared to accept poor living conditions in return for the reward of a guaranteed job at the end of their studies. It was almost an unwritten deal, for which there is now no basis.

At a time when young people should be actively encouraged to continue their education rather than

Aged and helpless in Soviet Union

From Lord Annan and others

Sir, We wish to call your attention to the plight of Aleksandr Ivanovich Brodsky, the 80-year-old father of the illustrious poet, Joseph Brodsky.

Mr Brodsky jun, the only child of his parents, is a naturalized citizen of the United States. Twelve times the Soviet agency, OVID, has denied them permission to leave, stating either that they did not deem this to be purposeful or that an invitation to the United States was inappropriate as their records indicate that Mr Brodsky jun had emigrated to Israel.

The truth is that he became a US citizen in 1977. In the course of these numerous rejections, the poet's mother went to Moscow to plead unavailingly with the Ministry of the Interior. On March 17, 1983, she died. Her husband, who is in poor health, received the most recent rejection in October.

These denials by the Soviets of a helpless old man's requests are in flagrant violation of the Helsinki declaration, to which the USSR is a signatory. The declaration has in part as its purpose the reunion of families. This family of three is now a family of two.

Sincerely,

NOEL ANNAN, SAUL BELLOW, ROBERT BERNSTEIN, JOHN BRADEN, SIMONE DE BEAUVOR, MATTHEW EVANS, NADINE GORDIMER, YASMIN GREIGORIAN, DRUE HEINZ, ANDREW HESKELL, ELIZABETH HOLTZMAN, FLORA LEWIS, ALEXANDER LIBERMAN, KARL MILLER, PAUL MOORE, JOHN OAKES, PHILIP ROTH, ROBERT SILVER, SUSAN SONTAG, MICHAEL SOWEN, STEPHEN SPENDER, ROGER STRAUSS, WILLIAM STYRON, JOHN UPDEGROVE.

c/o Farrar, Straus & Giroux, Inc, 19 Union Square West, New York, New York 10003, USA, February 6.

Protecting investors

From the Chairman of the Stock Exchange

Sir, Lorna Bourke's article on January 21 about Professor Gower's Review of Investor Protection said that if "two proposals - compensation and an ombudsman - are implemented, then for the first time investors will have proper protection". I believe I should record that this is not strictly correct.

Investors who have dealt in stocks and shares through, or who have entrusted the management of their portfolio to, Stock Exchange members have had proper protection for a long time.

We instituted a voluntary and unlimited compensation fund in 1951, which is as comprehensive and generous as any of its type in the world. We also have a well tried system for dealing with complaints from clients of stockbroking firms.

The Council for the Securities Industry, furthermore, has a subcommittee which deals with complaints against members of bodies who do not have a proper procedure themselves for dealing with them.

I realise that Miss Bourke probably intended these words to refer only to the lack of adequate protection for investors outside the Stock Exchange. In this she is absolutely right.

Yours faithfully, NICHOLAS GOODISON, Chairman, The Stock Exchange, EC2, January 24.

Rate-capping policies

From Mr Bernard Garbacz

Sir, I am one of those unfortunate members of the community who suffer most by having to contend with the inefficiency of two of the worst run boroughs in the country, and consequently with the highest rates bill.

My home is in the London borough of Barnet (Conservative controlled) and my office is in the London borough of Brent, which until the recent fracas of a few weeks ago, was Labour controlled. My office provides employment for over seventy local residents and yet our rates bill for the area of office space we occupy is probably three times the rates payable on similar office suites in the Westminster area for instance.

The massive local expenditure at both Barnet and Brent is totally out of hand, and I believe that the Government's new proposed Rates Bill, if it becomes law, will be much welcomed legislation to curb the blatant inefficiency of some of our local authorities.

Yours faithfully, BERNARD GARBACZ, Landau Morley, Chartered Accountants, 386 High Road, Wembley, Middlesex, January 18.

Old two hundredth

From Sir Laurence Graffey-Smith

Sir, I write hoping that you may allow me an elegant reference to the passing of the current half-penny, for this minute absurdity, making nonsense of any decimal cheque, had usurped the proud position of the old penny in relation to the pound.

And, in the lifetime of many, what did a penny buy! Quite a lot of sweets, and W. T. Stead's *Books for the Banns*; a dozen boxes of matches, none of which rattled; first-class postage anywhere in the British Isles; and everything on the shelves of Messrs Marks and Spencer's Penny Bazaar. The final abolition of even notional replacement of this precious element should not go unmentioned.

Yours faithfully, LAURENCE GRAFFEY-SMITH, Broom Hill House, Coddanham, Suffolk, February 1.

THE ABSENTEE VOTER

The most significant fact embedded in the Government's white paper on the Representation of the People Acts is the state of inaccuracy of the electoral register. It is reckoned that even at the point of compilation six per cent of those entitled to be included are not, which is about two million men and women; and a similar number are included who are not entitled to be. By the time the register comes into force the number of eligible but omitted is three million, and by the end of its period of currency the number is five and a half million.

Accuracy in this matter costs money, and the Government prefers to see what can be done without spending any more of it. The missing millions dwarf the new categories of voter the Government would like to introduce by legislation next session. But the latter break new ground and therefore attract more comment.

It is proposed to enfranchise 600,000 (at a guess) of British citizens who live abroad and do not therefore have the residential qualification that underlies our electoral system. At present exception is made only for members of the armed services and some other Crown servants. A well organized demand for the same treatment has come from British citizens living and working on the continent of Europe. The Government is happy to go further. All British citizens who are or have been on the electoral roll would be allowed to remain on it for seven years after removing abroad, anywhere.

Certainly someone who bats for Britain in an African subsidiary of ICI or beavers away at the Berlaymont is hardly less deserving of a vote back home than someone serving in the embassy at Bogota. But the net which lands these model citizens lands also an assortment of fugitives from justice, tax exiles, deserters

from the rigours of the British climate or British socialism, Algarve golfers, voters-with-their-feet for Mr Botha's South Africa. Towards these potential voters approval is more mixed. The Government has rightly rejected any idea of discrimination on the basis of merit. The franchise falls on the just and unjust alike (unless actually in prison), and if it is to be extended to citizens living abroad the same impartiality has to apply.

This is for parliamentary and European Community elections. In the case of the latter it would be preferable to have a reciprocal arrangement by which the adult citizen of any member state is entitled to vote in the country in which he is resident at the time. That preserves the territorial character of parliamentary representation and harmonizes with the philosophy of the Treaty of Rome, to which Britain officially subscribes. It has to be said however that what the Government proposes is what the British elsewhere in the Community actually want, which is a vote in a British constituency.

The other main change in the white paper is an extension of absent voting. People away on holiday at election time have a grievance. The Government proposes to add them, with sundry other sorts of absentee, to the now restricted list of those entitled to cast a vote in absence by post or proxy. Assuming a 50 per cent take-up, the number of absent votes cast would be roughly doubled at about 1.2 million.

Applicants for postal votes would have to state why they are unable or likely to be unable to vote in person. The reasons are not restricted to a specified list. It is essential, the white paper says, that adequate steps should be taken to ensure that applications for an absent vote are received only by those who are

qualified to ask for one. It is therefore made a requirement that the application be countersigned by another elector not of the applicant's immediate family.

Either it is essential that all applications be from genuine absentees, in which case some altogether more stringent form of investigation would be required than the second signature mentioned. (Close examination is far beyond the resources of returning officers at their busiest time.) Or it is not essential, in which case the position would be one of absent voting virtually on demand.

There are two objections to absent voting on demand. The first many would dismiss as fanciful, though perhaps they should not. The emphatic act of turning out to vote at a polling station has greater reality in terms of civic participation than the everyday act of posting an envelope. It counts for more in the process of democratic bonding. Second, widespread postal and proxy voting enlarges the scope, now minimal, for corrupt practice. The white paper concedes this by proposing to withhold the new absentee rights from Northern Ireland because of the prevalence of electoral abuse there. That may be prudent, but it is constitutionally grotesque that the rules should be other than uniform for the parliamentary electors of a unitary state.

Secrecy of the ballot and honesty of the electoral machinery, having been achieved and long enjoyed in Great Britain, are too readily taken for granted. The well-intentioned proposal for change now put forward by the Government would expose that achievement to risk. The proposal might be modified, but as it stands it would not do.

(December 31) in similar vein about the records at Temple Mills Wagon Works. I have already written to Mr Watling telling him that disposal of the records is not imminent: what is imminent is the transfer of the records to another store.

In all these cases I think it would be far more profitable if individual societies interested in railway archives were to write and advise me of their status and their particular interest in order that we may consider the transfer of minor historical records to them after we have gone through the standard procedure with the Public Record Office and the National Railway Museum.

Yours sincerely, GERRY BURT, Chief Secretary, British Railways Board, Euston Square, PO Box 100, NW1, January 16.

Rail archive disposal

From the Chief Secretary to the British Railways Board

Sir, Mr David Challis (January 11) is woefully misinformed. The Public Record Office, the National Railway Museum and we act in concert following the policy set out in my previous letter (December 23).

Any material which might be remotely considered to have historical value is offered to them for examination - we offer more rather than less.

The suggestion that our track record is "poor" is unworthy in the light of the facts and gives no credit for what has been achieved during a period when there is a limit to how much money we can spend on the preservation of records as opposed to the movement of passengers.

Green material was not "hastily... destroyed in 1977". In fact, as Mr Challis was told in 1978, all documents considered to be of interest were moved to another store.

The Public Record Office have taken all the records they require for preservation; and about one ton of minor records remain with us. These records are available for any relevant society if they wish to have them - they relate mainly to small items which property transactions carried out by the Great Northern Railway about the turn of the century.

I must add that they are in a relatively poor condition; that is why we stopped using Bethnal Green as a store. The 1969 case quoted (the Stephenson plans) was raised in Parliament at the time. The drawings concerned were subsidiaries of the key plans; the latter are still preserved.

Mr John Watling wrote to you



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 6: The Queen arrived at Buckingham Palace this afternoon. The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron of the Outward Bound Trust, this afternoon launched the Norfolk Outward Bound Association at Middleton Tower, King's Lynn, where His Royal Highness was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Norfolk (Mr Timothy Colclough).

The Duke of Edinburgh, Chancellor of the University of Cambridge, this evening presided at a dinner at St John's College to celebrate 400 years of printing and publishing by the University Press.

Lieutenant-Commander Andrew Wynn, RN, was in attendance.

YORK HOUSE
February 7: The Duke of Kent, Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England, this evening attended a meeting of the Oakley Lodge at Basingstoke, Hampshire. Sir Richard Buckley was in attendance.

Princess Anne, Chancellor of London University, will attend a presentation ceremony at the Albert Hall on March 14th. The Duke of Kent, who gave birth to a son on January 29, will attend a presentation ceremony at the Albert Hall on March 14th. The Duke of Kent, who gave birth to a son on January 29, will attend a presentation ceremony at the Albert Hall on March 14th.

Forthcoming marriages

Captain A. T. Gilchrist and **Miss A. E. B. Thomson**
The engagement is announced between Andrew Thomas, 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards, elder son of Mr and Mrs T. C. Gilchrist, of Orpington, Kent, and Nancy, only daughter of Sir John and Lady Thomson, UK Mission to the United Nations, New York.

Mr A. Robertson and **Miss M. C. Evans**
The engagement is announced between Alastair, elder son of Mr and Mrs J. L. Robertson, of Wootton, Bedfordshire, and Megan, daughter of Mr and Mrs A. Evans, of Llanidloes, Shropshire.

Mr S. M. Barrett and **Miss P. M. Hudson**
The engagement is announced between Stephen, only son of Squadron Leader and Mrs J. T. Barrett, of Cambridge, and Philippa, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs E. G. Hudson, of Whitley Bay.

Mr C. A. Beaton and **Miss S. Watson**
The engagement is announced between Callum Andrew, elder son of Mr and Mrs C. Beaton, of Wivenhoe, Essex, and Sandra, only daughter of Mrs G. M. Singleton, of Edinburgh, and Mr C. Watson, of Glasgow.

Mr N. M. Ballings and **Miss S. A. Sharpe**
The engagement is announced between Nigel Mark, son of Mr and Mrs R. Ballings, of Geneva, Switzerland, and Stefania Anne, daughter of Major and Mrs B. W. Sharpe, of Luxembourg, and Wokingham, Surrey.

Mr H. K. Brad F. Fidler and **Miss A. E. B. Thomson**
The engagement is announced between Hugh, son of Mr and Mrs H. Brad, of Prestwich, Lancashire, and Alexandra, daughter of Mr and Mrs L. D. F. Fidler, of Pyrford, Surrey.

Dr N. D. Bresser and **Miss L. Randall**
The engagement is announced between Neil, second son of Mr and Mrs L. Bresser, St John's Wood, London, and Lisa, only daughter of Dr and Mrs R. Randall, Loughborough, Leicestershire.

Mr A. L. Brown and **Miss J. H. Whyte**
The engagement is announced between Richard Arthur Llewellyn, second son of Mr and Mrs David Brown, Gusion, Chelwood Gate, and Jill Heather, only daughter of Mr and Mrs J. H. Whyte, Fallowfield Farm, Grampian.

Mr R. V. J. Coombs and **Miss J. Gaudinett**
The engagement is announced between Robert, son of Mr and Mrs J. M. Coombs, and Jill, daughter of Mr and Mrs D. J. Gaudinett, both of Bournemouth, Dorset.

Mr A. M. Powell and **Miss J. A. Aston**
The engagement is announced between Malcolm Powell, of The Oval, London, and Jane Aston, of Harrow-on-the-Hill, Middlesex.

Mr W. McE. Eddis and **Miss A. R. Shabro Osmar**
The engagement is announced between William, elder son of Mr and Mrs W. Eddis, of Aldeburgh, Suffolk, and Alkiko, daughter of Mr and Mrs Shabro Osmar, of Titchell, Yorkshire.

Dr P. D. Grebenik and **Miss E. L. Keeping**
The engagement is announced between Peter, younger son of Mr and Mrs E. Grebenik, of Egham, Surrey, and Harriet, second daughter of Mr and Mrs A. R. Keeping, of Titchell, Yorkshire.

Dr P. J. Gant and **Miss N. J. Meadows**
The engagement is announced between Peter, son of Mr and Mrs F. T. Gant, of Silchester, Devon, and Nicola, daughter of Mr and Mrs A. R. Meadows, of Backbury, Berkshire.

Mr N. J. D. Haywood and **Miss H. E. Corke**
The engagement is announced between Nicholas John Denham, son of Mr and Mrs Derek Haywood, of Chapel House, Long Melford, Suffolk, and Hannah Eileen, daughter of Mr and Mrs Timothy Corke, of 107 Berkeley Square, Baker Street, London NW1.

Mr D. A. Hughes and **Miss J. C. Weston**
The engagement is announced between Andrew, younger son of Mr and Mrs Stanley Hughes, of Silchester, Devon, and Jenny, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs J. C. Weston, of Brentor and Dulwich.

Mr C. G. Hutson and **Miss R. L. Tetlow**
The engagement is announced between Charles, son of Mr and Mrs T. G. Hutson, of Ditchling, Sussex, and Rosalind, daughter of Mr and Mrs J. C. Tetlow, of Deben, Saffron Walden, Essex.

Mr P. H. Jackson and **Miss C. M. Woodgate**
The engagement is announced between Paul Henry, only son of Mr S. B. Jackson, MBE, and Sheila Jackson, of Sandal, Wakefield, and Catherine Mary, elder daughter of Dr and Mrs G. K. Woodgate, of Cusum Hill, Oxford.

Captain M. J. Mansford, RE and **Miss E. M. W. Wicks**
The engagement is announced between Michael, son of Mr and Mrs R. B. Mansford, of The Sheppey, Stanion, Worcestershire, and Kate, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs J. A. Vivian, of West Berlin.

Mr S. H. Keeling and **Miss S. G. Fooks**
The engagement is announced between Simon Henry, son of Mr and Mrs Michael Keeling, of Sedlescombe, Sussex, and Sarah Golia, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Fooks, of Titchhurst, Sussex.

Dr M. Patterson and **Miss H. M. Chartres**
The engagement is announced between Michael, younger son of Dr and Mrs John Patterson, of Ballymore, Northern Ireland, and Helen, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Robert Irvine Chartres, of Seacon, Co. Antrim.

Reward for bravery in facing armed robbers

Two courts in London yesterday rewarded the bravery of men who came under fire from armed robbers.

At the Central Criminal Court Judge Gibbons, QC, told Mr Stephen Rudge, aged 34, a former Scotland Yard Flying Squad detective and his business partner, Mr John Hale, aged 43, that he would recommend them for one of the highest civilian honours, Captain Binney Awards for Heroism.

As a token he awarded Mr Rudge and Mr Hale, both family men who run a security company, cash payments of £200 and £150 respectively.

Judge Gibbons said James Tomkins, aged 34, of King and Queen Street, Walworth, south London, the man they had helped to capture, "was obviously willing to sacrifice the life of anyone who got in his way". Tomkins was jailed for 12 years for robbery, wounding and firearms possession, resulting in a £13,500 hold-up outside a bank in Shoreditch, east London, last year.

Mr Rudge had dragged Tomkins from a motor cycle and had grabbed his revolver, despite shots being fired at him.

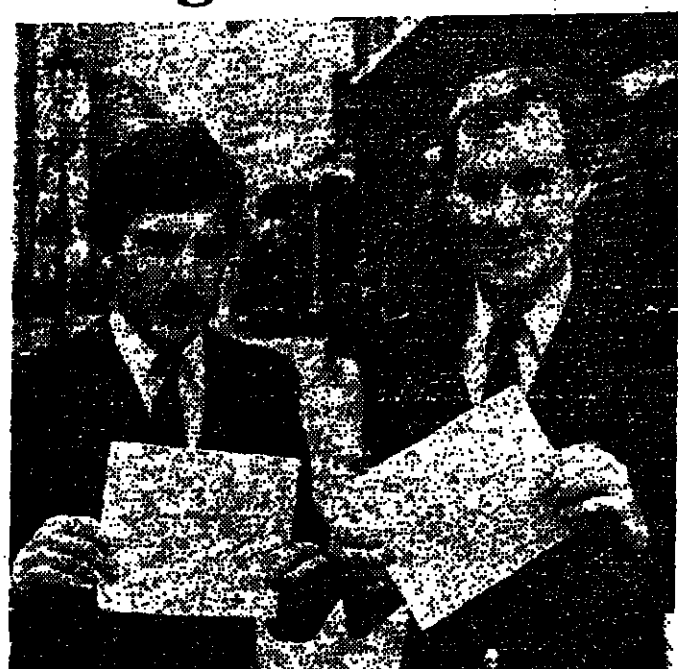
At Bow Street Magistrates' Court Sergeant Andrew Davidson, aged 39, and PC Brian Chappell, who tracked an armed robber along a north London railway line while being shot at, were also rewarded for their bravery.

The robber, who was later jailed for two years, had taken cash from a petrol station in Mill Hill, where he had aimed an air pistol at the cashier.

Both policemen received a cheque for £75 from the court's fund.

Right: PC Brian Chappell and Sergeant Andrew Davidson with their cheques yesterday.

Right: PC Brian Chappell and Sergeant Andrew Davidson with their cheques yesterday.



The February night sky

By Our Astronomy Correspondent

Mercury is a morning star at about 07h throughout the month. Although brightening, its elongation from the Sun is decreasing and it will be very difficult to see.

Venus will be rising at about 06h; with a greater elongation than Mercury and being a very bright object it will be quite conspicuous in spite of its low altitude. Moon near it on the 29th.

Mars has just crossed into Libra and will be rising at about midnight. It will overtake Saturn at a distance of less than a degree on the 15th; nearly 0.5 in magnitude at 0.6 and 0.5 respectively. Mars being reddish in comparison, Moon nearing Mars on the 22nd.

Jupiter in Sagittarius, like all the planets at present, is a morning star, rising before dawn. Moon near it on the 26th.

Saturn like Mars will be rising at about midnight. It will be stationary on the 25th and will then begin its slow retrograde motion among the stars. Moon very close to it on the 22nd.

Uranus and Neptune are morning stars in Opusculus and Sagittarius respectively.

The Moon: new, 124h; first quarter, 1004h; full, 1701h; last quarter, 2341h.

Algo: approximate times of evening minima are 2018h, 1923h and 2220h.

It is difficult, perhaps impossible, to write a monthly column without repetition. However, people forget, the readership changes, and from time to time a request is received for an explanation which has been given before. The request this time is: "Why are mornings and afternoons usually different in length?"

To ordinary persons, though not for scientific perfectionists

Latest appointments

Latest appointments include: Mrs Edwin Coves to be chairman of the City of London Police Committee in succession to Mr Brian Wilson.

Mrs Eleri Wynne Jones, a part-time lecturer at the Gwynedd Technical College, Bangor, to be a member of the Welsh Fourth Channel Authority.

Mr Edward Clements, deputy chief examiner of the Institute of Advanced Motorists, to be the institute's chief examiner in succession to Mr Alec Jones.

Mr J. M. Thomson to be a member of the Thames Water Authority.

Mrs Jose Frances Marshall, Headmistress of Doderhill School, Droghda, to be Headmistress of Truro High School from September.

Birthdays today

Lord Bellom, 61; Lord Bottomley, 77; Miss Dora Bryan, 60; Professor Henry Clifford Darr, 75; the Earl of Cork and Orrery, 74; the Earl of Haverdown, 61; Mr Charles Day, 47; Lord Keith of Kintyre, 62; Sir John Leahy, 56; Sir George Moseley, 59; Sir Michael Newton, 61; Sir Geoffrey Peacock, 64; Mr Robert Reid, 63; Mr John Ritchie, 71; Mr R. W. Weston, 58; Sir Brian Windley, 80.

Luncheons

HM Government: Mr Paul Channon, Minister for Trade, was host at a luncheon held at Admiralty House yesterday in honour of Mr Frans Andriessen, EEC Commissioner.

Coal Industry Society: A luncheon of the Coal Industry Society was held at the Park Lane Hotel yesterday. Lord Ezra, president, introduced the principal guest and speaker, Sir Walter Marshall, Chairman of the Central Electricity Generating Board. Mr K. Gardiner was in the chair.

Receptions

British Veterinary Association: Sir Peter Mills, MP, was host at a reception held by the British Veterinary Association in the House of Commons yesterday after the opening of an exhibition on the association's activities in the Upper Waiting Hall by Mrs Peggy Fenner, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Dinner

USPG: The Council of the United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel held a dinner at 15 Tufnell Street, Westminster, yesterday evening to mark the retirement of Canon J. S. Robertson as secretary. Dr A. J. Palfrey presided and those present included:

The Bishop of Lichfield, the Bishop of Hereford, the Bishop of Worcester, the Bishop of Exeter, the Bishop of Bath and Wells, the Bishop of Bristol, the Bishop of Gloucester, the Bishop of London, the Bishop of Winchester, the Bishop of Salisbury, the Bishop of Ely, the Bishop of Norwich, the Bishop of Peterborough, the Bishop of Leicester, the Bishop of Coventry, the Bishop of Derby, the Bishop of Chester, the Bishop of Liverpool, the Bishop of Manchester, the Bishop of Salford, the Bishop of Macclesfield, the Bishop of Stoke-on-Trent, the Bishop of Wolverhampton, the Bishop of Birmingham, the Bishop of Nottingham, the Bishop of Lincoln, the Bishop of Leicester, the Bishop of Coventry, the Bishop of Derby, the Bishop of Chester, the Bishop of Liverpool, the Bishop of Manchester, the Bishop of Salford, the Bishop of Macclesfield, the Bishop of Stoke-on-Trent, the Bishop of Wolverhampton, the Bishop of Birmingham, the Bishop of Nottingham, the Bishop of Lincoln, the Bishop of Leicester, 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THE ARTS

Galleries

The importance of a human dimension

Derek Jarman
ICAThe Capricious View
National GalleryAxel Haig
HeinzRaymond Myerscough-Walker
Architectural Association

So many younger artists these days have such limitingly neat, orderly careers that it comes as something of a relief and certainly a breath of fresh air to encounter Derek Jarman at the ICA (until March 18) defending, as it seems, the artist's right to be untidy. Quite possibly this is not his intention: maybe he envies those who know exactly what their little square of ivory is and are content to work consistently at it. Whereas he flits from painting to writing to stage and film design to his own films and videos, so that you never know quite where his central preoccupation lies. In this he would seem to be a little like Rebecca Horn, still on show at the Serpentine. But she evidently has, at the back of all her experimenting, a good German housewife's determination to waste nothing and make the most of every last scrap, so that sculptures turn up in films and films give rise to photo-installations and so on. Jarman just lets it all pour out.

But then, what it is to have so many talents to spare, so that you do not mind if some of them run to waste. The ICA showing includes all his films and most of his videos (phone them to find out what is showing when), as well as the two films he designed for Ken Russell, of which *The Devils* in particular amazes at a distance of 13 years by its unblinking use of Post-Modern settings at a time when the architectural avant-garde had hardly even begun to define itself. But, unlike many who by training think in architectural terms, Jarman does not

in his other artworks, ignore the human dimension.

His most recent paintings feature large nude figures along with hermetic symbols and the odd memento mori ("reminiscent of Caravaggio" in the accompanying notes is going a bit too far, though the general drift of the observation is clear enough) — unless, as parts of the installation G.E.H., they are free fantasias on the map of Britain. The earlier works on show include fantastically painted or assembled cape-like garments and some tiny architectural landscapes scattered with even tinier red figures. Always, even in the smallest, a sense of vast spaces — but spaces always peopled, crowded almost to bursting with the contradictions of human life.

The other day one of our leading figurative artists was expressing to me concern, if not outright alarm, about the work of the fashionable German painter Anselm Kiefer, such as the large, vaguely Wagnerian interior at present on show at the Tate among the new acquisitions. It was, he maintained, a very disturbing development, quite without precedent in the history of art, that Kiefer and several others today were apparently dedicated to reflecting the outside world of appearances — landscapes, interiors, without ever including a human figure. I am not quite clear why this is so worrying, even in 1984. It might, after all, be interpreted as a moral stance: if every prospect pleases, and only man is vile, then why not exclude him? It might even be something as simple as a way of disguising a technical weakness when it comes to figure drawing.

All the same, a group of exhibitions this week makes it clear that in one particular my painter has some reason on his side. In general, artists of the past who were primarily interested in architecture seem always to have required the human figure to lend emotional interest, or just to create a sense of scale. The townscapes in the National Gallery's small but delightful show *The Capricious View* (until March 18) are nearly all imaginary, in the honourable tradition of the architectural caprice, and when, towards the end of the period covered, there are real views of Venice by Canaletto and Guardi the notes suggest that after all Venice itself was always something



Virtuosity of perspective and illusion in Courtyard of a Renaissance Palace by Hendrick van Steenwyck the younger

of a fantasy city, an architectural caprice in three dimensions. And always, in the midst of these invented ruins, or threatened by Francois de Nomie's toppling towers, are people, going about their everyday business or admiring the scene their presence validates.

In any case, a consuming interest in buildings, and a desire if need be to invent one's own, does not seem all that unreasonable in an artist. If they are not Man, at least they are the work of Man, and signify his presence and the mark he has made on the world. Admittedly, these caprices are deliberately lightweight, decorative works, intended primarily to delight the eye rather than move the emotions. They also offer — and here may be the secret spring of Kiefer's work — a chance to exercise virtuosity in the management of perspective and the creation of an illusionistic space, as well as the fantasy involved in actually inventing buildings that never were. It is noticeable that in the earlier pieces, by Hendrick van Steenwyck the younger and Dirck van Delen, both dating from the practical seventeenth century, the inventions are such as architects of the time might actually

be building, while once we get into the romanticizing eighteenth century of ruins and elegant melancholy are uppermost.

By the time we get round to Axel Haig, grandly revived in a show at the RIBA's Heinz Gallery until February 25, the romanticizing has taken a very different turn. Haig was in fact a journeyman architectural draughtsman early in his career: when he arrived in Britain from his native Sweden he rapidly became William Burgess's right-hand man, imaginatively evoking his major projects in mouth-watering watercolours intended to inspire the confidence and open the purses of competition committees and already half-persuaded patrons. That, after all, is what the respected if minor art of the architectural perspectivist is all about.

But this subordinate role did not long satisfy Haig. He soon found that he could effectively turn his particular technical and imaginative gifts to other, independent purposes. And so he became one of the most sought-after etchers of his day, entirely with architectural studies, real and imagined. Or, perhaps most fre-

quently, a combination of the two. If you compare his most apparently realistic scenes with their originals on the spot, you find that he is quite capable of putting a hill where no hill is in order to enhance the drama of a scene. Many of his pictures of houses and churches in Britain are given an air of historical reconstruction by the human figures, who are as often as not dressed in the costumes of the past, or at least in carefully noncommittal garb such as a monk's habit or traditional peasant wear.

The show is subtitled 'The Victorian Vision of the Middle Ages', as is the accompanying book by J. Mordaunt Crook and C. A. Lennox-Boyd in Allen and Unwin's admirable *Genesis of Architecture* series (£10.95, £4.95 paperback). And one need only look at this selection of Haig's best-selling prints, which start in 1877 and go on, amazingly, until 1919, to see just how influential this back-room boy of the later Gothic Revival must have been in training eyes and minds.

Even in our own day the art of the architectural perspectivist is not dead — though to look at the unencouraging images presented on the board-

could be forgiven for wondering if it is not moribund. At least the show devoted to Raymond Myerscough-Walker at the Architectural Association until Saturday shows that one of its leading twentieth-century practitioners is still very much alive and kicking. Myerscough-Walker was also himself a qualified architect, but his skill in the imaginative presentation of other men's ideas was so remarkable that most of his time in the Thirties seems to have been taken up with producing glamorous (if not necessarily glamorous) visions of buildings-to-be.

But Myerscough-Walker got tired of his easy success in this demanding but finally subordinate discipline, and the war provided a convenient excuse for him to become an early drop-out. He went, in what we would now call hippy-style, to live in the depths of the Sussex countryside. Though he did a few architectural perspectives for old friends in the Fifties, he devoted himself principally to living his life the way he wanted and, like Haig, producing original art-works. In his case the work, if truth be told, rather awful abstract or semi-abstract paintings.

John Russell Taylor

Television
Children in slavery

"These young girls, they just keep working and working and never complain", said Mr. Bundit, manager of a Bangkok sweatshop, unaware that his managerial pride was being assayed by Granada's World In Action team. Posing as British buyers, they toured several of these sweatshops where girls of 12, 13, 14 and 15 — 15 is the Thai legal age — work 15 and 16-hour days and, if there is a rush order, all night, to provide clothing for leading British companies.

Rags to Riches last night pointed a finger at Littlewoods, Debenhams, Woolworths, C & A and Great Universal Stores. Littlewoods, said the reporter Ed Harriman, were looking into it. GUS had said they were stopping shipments until they had investigated. But Mr. Michael Parkinson, a former buying agent in Bangkok for leading British firms, said it was impossible for them to be unaware of the conditions as their own buyers visited the factories. Some stayed at the Peninsula Hotel, which charged £140 a day and where, said Mr. Harriman, a small beer cost £1.50, more than a girl could earn by working all night.

Granada used concealed cameras and microphones and wired Thai girls to talk to the employees. They told of sleeping over their machines, beatings, guards and confinement. Dormitories, in some cases over the workshops, were ill-equipped and crowded.

Thai girls, unable to be supported by their parents, flock to Bangkok. Many are exploited in prostitution; others find an alternative in the sweatshops. The clothes they make, said Mr. Harriman, give instances, are marked up 300 per cent and more by British firms. In the last eight years imports from Bangkok had increased one-hundredfold. During that period the British clothing and knitting industry had been cut by a third. More than 150,000 had lost their jobs. David Darlow produced this chilling piece of reportage.

Dennis Hackett

Theatre

Wondrous rapport

Ballerina
Churchill, Bromley

This is a real find. From an unexpected source — Norway comes this carefully observed and finely written study of a family under stress from the problem of an autistic child. What could have been a mere weepie becomes a tragedy, and in Peter Coe's production both direction and performances rise to the occasion. Dorothy Tutin and Tamara Steele give the two tremendous central roles, mother and daughter, star performances whose relation to the whole is perfectly judged.

The 70-year-old author, Arne Skoven (himself the father of a psychotic girl), shows a classic well-made-play skill in picking a moment of crisis that enables him to telescope an entire drama into 90 minutes. (No translator is credited, but the writing is so concentrated that at times you hardly dare breathe.) The family is having a rare reunion: when Malin was eight, her ex-ballerina mother walked out with her to a mountain house; for two years since, trips to town (as now, for medical check-ups) have been few and reluctant. Having created a world devoted to her child and established communi-

cation with her, Mother suddenly finds herself facing deafness and their only neighbours moving away, depriving them of their lifeline just as winter approaches.

Her inability to grasp, or refusal to face, the consequences is an eerie echo of the autistic child's own withdrawal. Convinced herself that she has persuaded Malin's former husband to return, she rebuffs her former husband's plea to put the girl in a home. You cannot doubt he is right, yet you cannot accept it, contrasting the suave Aubrey Woods's well-meaning blunders with Miss Tutin's detailed, loving rapport with her daughter. So complete is Miss Steele's performance that you begin to understand Malin's "language" yourself: the floating balletic movements of pleasure and contentment, the seizures of terror at "bad thoughts" visibly disposed of by her mother. It is a remarkable partnership.

The use of ballet motifs as imagery is self-conscious, and the denouement can be glimpsed too early. But even the smallest parts are flourishing and true: the successful son (Peter Bourke), oscillating between guilt and resentment, the horror-struck nurse (Karen Ford) realizing the sacrifice expected of her, even the hotel chambermaid (Vivienne Ross) whose bitter memory of a friend's deliberate suicide with her autistic son grows stealthily in significance. Mary Flood's lovely transparent set encompasses an amiably old-fashioned hotel, the longed-for mountains and the inner room where Malin squats brooding, full of the thoughts that only one other person understands.

Anthony Masters

Hot Time

Jackson's Lane

Still within living memory (though not for much longer), the General Strike seems ideal for documentary-collage theatre with eye-witness accounts. That forms the basis of Common Stock's show — using the ever-strong permanent company plus their youth theatre group drawn largely from Hammersmith jobs, with Bryony Lavery acting as *Dramaturg*.

Angry irony at the lack of worker solidarity is intended as a backbone for a scrapbook-for-1926 concert. In Italy Mus-

Perfect proportion:
Tamara Steele

solini, in America the Marx Brothers: "It is a time", snarls the mustachioed Clare McIntyre as a pensive Hungarian, "where anything might happen". This is such ominous stuff as parodies are made on. Though the youth company clearly welcome a wealth of cameos, building a show that way needs care. This ragbag raises suspicion that the mere act of distinguishing between good ideas and bad was shunned as elitist.

Nuggets surface unexpectedly: Jane Olier's intricate lecture on how to ensure that her ladyship's bathwater is hot, Rebecca Burrell reminding workers with French disdain that whatever they achieve their wives still cook the dinner. But with few exceptions (like Frank Rendle's ominously quiet little Scottish private) Jennie Buckman's cast can only show that you are never too young to play cardboard characters. What can you do with George V's national speech delivered with Richard III's hump, or a sermon declaring "If God had intended the working class to be united, he would have made you all Siamese twins?"

As we saw in *Calamity* the other week, giving a play shape or construction is not one of Ms Lavery's strong points, and the ideas are not exactly unfamiliar. The hand-to-mouth attitude does not help; hard to accept police as sinister when a mugging line of them has just made comical dashes over the stage. But, if further work is possible during the six-week tour, there could be more images as telling as the Hungarian and Frenchwoman on the park bench, smiling at these Britons who are supposedly never slaves but always come back as obediently as the birds they feed.

Anthony Masters

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Concerts

Assault without aggression

Emil Gilels
Festival Hall

The only small disappointment for Emil Gilels's sizable audience on Sunday afternoon was his refusal to play an encore. But he had just ended a two-hour programme with one of the most taxing keyboard sonatas ever written, Beethoven's *Hammerklavier*. It was unjust of us to ask for more.

As reviews of his recent recording of this work have suggested, it is a reading very much his own, a reading majestically spacious and strong yet at the same time laying more emphasis on Beethoven as seer than stormer of high heaven. Unhurried tempo and loving cantabile certainly ensured that the first movement emerged more benign than explosive.

The Scherzo was distinguished by lightness of texture and less spiky accentuation than often heard. The Adagio brought two climaxes of searing urgency within a conception of the sublime simplicity. And, even if less than elements in trust, the finale found Mr. Gilels's fingers triumphant in figural clarification and control. Never at any time was his assault aggressive. Always he produced the mellowest tone.

Sharing the first half, his Scriabin and Prokofiev were also as enjoyable for his beauty and variety of sonority as for his total musical commitment — not less in the five hauntingly potent short Preludes, Op 74, with which Scriabin bade the world farewell. Details such as the repeated notes of No 1 and the trickling descending semiquaver motif of No 2 were exquisitely telling. The intensity compressed into the striving first movement of the much earlier Third Sonata was no less memorable. For Prokofiev's Third Sonata, Mr. Gilels rightly emerged from shadow into bright sunlight, yet still in its second subject allowed the instrument to show how beautifully it can sing.

Joan Chissell

LSO/Mata
Festival Hall

Give a teenaged pianist as talented as Dmitri Sgoros work as outrageously demanding as Rachmaninov's Third Concerto and he will astonish everyone (as indeed a few months ago he did) with his mature insight as well as his technical prowess. Substitute Mozart's D minor Piano Concerto, K466, and the young man faces a problem: how to play a work that demands a knowledge of darker, more adult things in life than Sgoros can possibly have yet experienced.

Fortunately, Sgoros already is no ordinary pianist, and so it

seemed quite natural that he should think of the piece differently in his performance with the London Symphony Orchestra under Eduardo Mata. Any worries over the necessary idiosyncrasies of his reading were overcome by his ingenious confidence, so that the superbly controlled veiled quality of the first movement seemed almost to forget the absence of its inner tensions.

Equally, Sgoros charmed his audience with his shaping of Mozart's phrases in the opening pages of the middle movement, his poise matched by an exquisite tone. But his pace in the central section made for an uncomfortable transition at the reprise, dissipating much of the momentum. Perhaps by way of conscious compensation, the finale took off like a rocket, and Sgoros showed himself a touch of flamboyance with his flourish at the fermata and with an unabashedly extrovert cadenza (by Beethoven). Such gestures served to reassure one that behind this miraculous playing there still lies a child's mind.

If only his accompanists, heavy-footed here and so disdainful of detail in Schubert's Third Symphony that the work simply died, could have shared half of his liveliness of mind. They were, fortunately, have chosen to end with Tchaikovsky's Fourth Symphony, which though peppered with roughnesses (the horns were often the culprits, and the first oboe made an unlovely sound) still managed to end with a brash and frantic exuberance.

Stephen Pettitt

Music Projects
Riverside

Concerts were not originally displays of megalomaniac temperament by romantic soloists pitted against vast orchestras, and the twentieth century has reverted, in many examples of the genre, to the original notion of a "concerted" piece by a group of equals. Sunday's neatly programmed concert by Music Projects/London in its "New Images of Sound" series juxtaposed four examples of the genre.

The inspiration of three of them, to some more or less remote degree, must have been Webern's Op 24 Concerto, which was conducted with nicely rounded shapes and a good sense of line by Richard Bernas, but came out sounding oddly spiky, not quite coherent. Most interesting was the new work by Richard Barrett, it is rare these days for a composer to admit in his programme note that his music is "doomed to qualified failure", yet I did not think Barrett's failure to communicate his ambitious philosophical notions any more grave than that of many of his colleagues.

Indeed, the flamboyant alternations of furious activity and repose, between a noisy electronic organ, pairs of clarinets and two virtuosic percussionists, and the gentle additional colourings of violin, cello and flute, were often powerful and striking, even if they did not quite add up to one hearing.

That work, performed with evident commitment in Ligeti's Chamber Concerto the carefully calculated sonic effects sounded regrettably rough-edged, and in Xenakis's *Atrées*, one of his less successful essays in the manipulation of limited material, tension lapsed between sections and the result was dry.

Nicholas Kenyon

CBSO/Rattle
Festival Hall

"This, if anything of mine, is worth your memory", Elgar appropriated Ruskin's words to his *Gerontius*, and they could have been applied in turn to Simon Rattle's City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra performance in general and Dame Janet Baker's Angel in particular. In a sold-out Festival Hall, a ripple of nearly 34 years of accumulated expectation from the work's Birmingham premiere was met by a vibrant sense of occasion in a performance of unusual wholeness, in spite of — even because of — its flaws.

No disinterested observer could have failed to be thrown, for example, by the ill-judged vocal expressionism where sustained expression failed in the longer stretches of Dennis Bailey's *Gerontius*. Yet this was very much part of an essential and valuably individual quality in his characterization: a searingly imagined projection of the unknown areas of the unconscious and subconscious that, in the opening and in dialogue with the Angel, reached us in artfully controlled tangles of fear and confusion.

Neither was it possible to ignore Willard White's rhythmically over-relaxed *Praxis*, and Angel of the Agony, a strangely humane but lacking a histrionic quality. Both physical and spiritual humanity, both immediacy and strange distance, were held in equipoise by Dame Janet in one of her most deeply integrated and instinctive performances, each note weighed in the balance and not one word found wanting.

Rattle's orchestra, with its excellently sifted and positioned semi-chorus, felt the work's pulse equally acutely, even if their vivid pointing of Elgar's dramatic emphases came at times at the expense of such a fully achieved sense of evolving transformation.

Hilary Finch

The decorative arts of Bloomsbury

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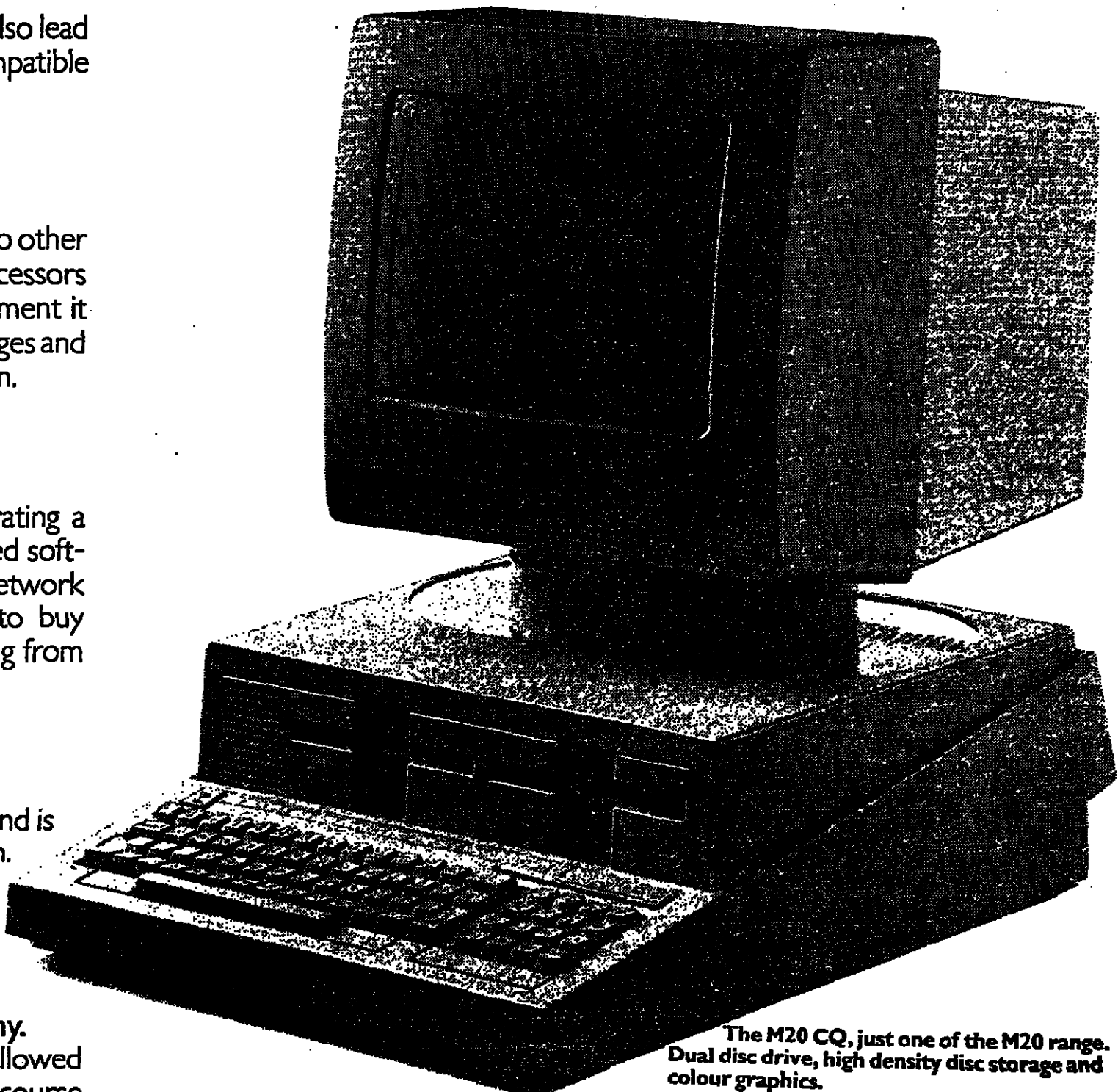
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● Italian chip investment in Britain

COMPUTER HORIZONS

● On Page 20: Secrets of the second set

10 micros
to be
won in
our new
national
contest



All-Britain hunt for prize ideas

There are still more than three weeks to go in which to put together your ideas for our new competition, the National Microcomputer Challenge, which is open to all readers of The Times.

The aim of the competition is to find the best original use of a microcomputer for a socially useful purpose, such as a novel computer program or an innovative use of a computer peripheral. Ideas may involve any type of project using hardware or software and any type of microcomputer.

The competition will be in two stages - regional and national. All the entrants need to do at the first stage is to submit in no more than 1,000 words a proposal describing the project and its benefits and ensure that the entry is accompanied by twelve differently dated mastheads from the front of The Times - that is, the title at the top of Page One with the date below it.

Judging will take place in ten regions and the winner in each region will receive a BBC Microcomputer Model B, provided by Acorn Computers. There will be a second prize of a £50 W. H. Smith voucher and a £30 voucher for third prize. Closing date for entries is March 2.

The Department of Trade and Industry has agreed to host the ten judging sessions at its regional offices. Other judges will be nominated by the British Computer Society and Acorn Computers.

The second stage will be the national final in which the ten regional winners will be asked to demonstrate their ability to put their proposals into practice, making use of a microcomputer. It is emphasized that entrants will not, for example, be expected to provide a complete professional program or working model, but only to give some evidence of the practicability of their original idea.

The national judging and prize-giving will take place on April 18 as part of the London Computer Festival and the results published in Computer Horizons on May 1. First prize,

provided by Acorn Computers, will be a full BBC Microcomputer Model B, disc storage system, and either a 14 inch colour video monitor or a "Sparkjet" printer. The second prize will be a £100 W. H. Smith voucher for goods and third prize a £50 voucher.

You may enter as an individual or as a representative of a project group for a club, school, college or company. If you represent a group, you will be required to provide the name of the person responsible for the group. The prizes, therefore, may be won by an individual or on behalf of a group. If any winner already has a BBC microcomputer, Acorn Computers have agreed to substitute any other item from the BBC microcomputer system or Acornsoft programs of a similar value.

Some ideas

As a guide to those still seeking a purpose for their entries, there are many opportunities, for instance, for helping the handicapped. Examples:

- A speech generator that can read text;
- Keyboards enabling the physically handicapped to type;
- Simple robotics of a fetch-and-carry nature;
- Hardware making communications easier for those with hearing or sight problems.

Other subject areas are corner-shop businesses requiring simple, low-priced stock control programs; advice bureaux needing readily-understood programs possibly using information channels; and the training of unemployed youngsters in new skills.

The possibilities are endless and many familiar areas are open to novel ideas. The only limitation - apart from length - is in the mind of the competitor.

Complete details of the competition and further entry forms may be obtained at W. H. Smith shops selling computers and software, or in writing from the competition address:

The Times National Computer Challenge, 43 Bedford Row, London WC99.

The 10 regions

1. Scotland; 2. Northern Ireland & North West (Northern Ireland, Cheshire, Cumbria, Lancashire, Merseyside, Greater Manchester); 3. North East (Cleveland, Durham, Northumberland, Tyne & Wear); 4. Yorkshire & Humberside (Yorkshire); 5. Midlands (Nottinghamshire, Northamptonshire, Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Hereford, Worcestershire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, West Midlands, Metropolitan County); 6. Wales; 7. South West (Cornwall, Devon, Gloucestershire, Wiltshire, Dorset); 8. Home Counties North (Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk, Oxfordshire, Suffolk); 9. Home Counties South (Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Kent, Surrey, Sussex); 10. Greater London.

Strong man from Sicily brings chips to Bucks

By Maggie McLening

Italian semiconductor manufacturer SGS is to open a chip development centre in Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, that is likely to bring more than just an investment of 2 billion lira to the UK.

If the company's extraordinary turnaround in fortunes over the past three years is anything to go by, Aylesbury will also be witnessing one of the toughest styles of management to emerge from the notoriously unprofitable group of European manufacturers; and one that achieves success.

SGS, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Italian Financial Company for Telecommunications, STET, had been unprofitable for 11 years until December, when it managed to get into the black. The climb back was remarkable because it was mainly achieved during the years when the chips industry suffered its major crises, caused by slumps due to over-production of RAM (random access memory) chips.

With subsidiaries in Germany, Italy, Malta, Malaysia, Singapore, Sweden, Switzerland, the UK and the USA, SGS Group invests 14 per cent of its turnover in research and development. The main laboratories are sited in Agrate, Casaleto and Catania but design centres have recently been opened in Garching, Germany, and Phoenix, Arizona. A manufacturing plant is also due to be opened in Phoenix, so there is a strong possibility of a similar move in Aylesbury.

SGS is one of the world's leading suppliers of linear circuits and power transistor circuits, although it also has a small stake in the more widely publicised MOS (Metal Oxide Semiconductor) market, as a second-source supplier of Zilog Z80 and Z8000 ranges. There is



Pistorio... Sack for the absentees, warnings to others

also a joint development agreement with Toshiba, for CMOS (Complementary Metal Oxide Semiconductor) chips. The group's recent move into profitability and worldwide expansion is directly attributable to its Sicilian-born president, Pascual Pistorio. When Pistorio joined SGS, after leaving Motorola in 1980, turnover was 146 billion lira, with a loss of 32 billion on sales. Last year, turnover reached 350 billion lira and SGS broke even, with its first profits in December, the result of trimming the fat but sustaining investment levels, according to Pistorio.

His first act was controversial

Kingdom; the worst France and Italy.

Pistorio had stipulated to the Italian government that SGS would be run as a private enterprise. When he accepted the presidency, he announced an ambitious five-year plan to transform its fortunes.

"The first phase was to go into the black, otherwise we would have been a parasitic institution burning money: a business should put in resources and get more out. The second aim was to become one of the good, solid participants in the world of business - within the top 15 world suppliers of semiconductors, aiming to be a billion-dollar company, by 1988."

A key point in his strategy was to direct marketing outside Europe, which accounts for only 20 per cent of world consumption of semiconductors: the US taking a 50 per cent share. In 1982, 70 per cent of SGS's revenues came from Europe, and the remainder mainly from the US and Asia. Pistorio aims to re-adjust the balance to only 30 per cent from Europe by 1985, with a higher proportion from the US market as a top priority.

"One of the major mistakes of European manufacturers in the past was not to attack the external markets to Europe. This restricted them to only a small part of the world and meant that they failed to recoup their research and development expenditure, making them unprofitable for many years," he commented. "Observers cry that Europe is dead, but forgetting the micro industry means accepting the loss of electronics generally, and Europe cannot afford to sell history. It is possible and mandatory to succeed."

The data Bill: A case for closer scrutiny

Today begins the committee stage of one of the most controversial Bills ever to attempt passage through the House of Commons and although its content has been culled from more than 20 years' experience, many of its critics, among them doctors, lawyers, and social workers, consider it to be inadequate for its purpose.

The subject is the Data Protection Bill which fell victim to the timing of an early election in the summer of last year and was re-introduced to parliament this session. Governments, both Conservative and Labour, have studied the matter of Data Protection but all have shied from introducing legislation. The present effort appears to be the bare minimum required by the European Convention, thus enabling British companies to transfer data across national boundaries.

The data concerned is personal. The new law will provide a mechanism whereby a person - the subject of the computer information - will have the right to see that information while the operator of such computer systems will be required to register and declare his purpose.

The powers that the Home Secretary would acquire through legislation are a matter of controversy. So are the exemptions outlined in the legislation. These exemptions mean that an individual will be refused access to his or her own records if the data is held for the purposes of "the prevention or detection of crimes: the apprehension or prosecution of offenders; the

assessment or collection of any tax or duty".

The legislation has been termed "a fraud on the public" by the National Council for Civil Liberties.

According to the NCCL: "Neither the professional nor the client in a confidential relationship need even know that personal information has been transferred to outsiders. Far from being a Data Protection provision, it is more a licence for the collection and the transfer of information in any case where authorities can argue that there is any police or national security interest in the file."

Those criticisms are valid. The legislation is not supposed to provide a method of policing how information is kept and processed but the type of information contained on file and who has access to it. The only reason why computers have even entered the picture is because they have made it possible for sensitive data to be easily accessed by hundreds of people from locations thousands of miles apart and in many instances leaving little evidence that they have done so. Last week a summary of those criticisms was sent by the NCCL to more than 90 MPs.

The British Medical Association has been particularly concerned about how the police could access personal medical data. According to the Bill, the police file may not be subject to the scrutiny of the Data Protection code.

The BMA concentrated most of its opposition on the provision which

allows medical computer records to be examined for the purposes of crime prevention or detection. It said: "A patient's notes could be transferred to the police by a third person without either the patient's or the doctor's knowledge or consent. The information might be held indefinitely."

The proper questions have not been addressed by the Bill. Any legislation adequately providing protection must cater for information held on manual filing systems making allowance for the time when super intelligent computers are able to read directly from any document.

THE WEEK

By Bill Johnstone

More than 90 per cent of doctor's medical records are held on manual systems. Virtually all records held by colleges, schools or educational authorities are in the same form. This legislation offers the individual no access or protection when the records are held manually, yet the information could be processed by a computer having optically read the manual file.

The role to be played by government is equally questionable. For more than 20 years governments have been concerned at how best to introduce this legislation and are still frightened to subject their own computer systems to the inspection of

third parties. For government, one of the principal employers of computers in Britain, to have power under the Home Secretary to exempt it from such scrutiny without public redress, is disturbing.

Parliamentary concern arose in 1961 when Lord Mancroft introduced a Bill in the House of Lords on private affairs. Two other private members' bills were introduced to the House of Commons in 1967 and 1969.

A committee was subsequently created to study the subject under the chairmanship of Kenneth Younger. The Younger Committee reported in 1972. Three years later and two white papers later, the Labour Government established another study group under the chairmanship of Sir Norman Lindop. The committee reported in 1978. It was not until 1982 that the present administration responded to the Lindop report with the publication of a white paper. That paper became the basis for the legislation now being steered through parliament.

Two of the principal Lindop recommendations, which were to ensure government's impartiality were ignored or rejected by government when drawing up legislation. Lindop recommended no exemptions for police records and that any granted because of national security should be subject to investigation by a Data Protection Authority.

The police have received their exemption and no authority will be created. Owners of computer data

banks carrying the sensitive information will instead be required to register with the Registrar of Data Protection, created by the new Bill.

The political waverings of the past two decades indicate that the impetus for the legislation did not come from the British government. It came from Europe. The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe agreed a convention for the protection of computerised personal data in the autumn of 1980. The European parliament in 1982 called on its members to adopt the convention.

By July the following year 21 countries including USA, Australia, Japan and most of Europe introduced privacy legislation or were in the process of doing so. Britain is now slowly, reluctantly and some say inadequately, attempting to redress that balance.

The advances now being made in computer design where optical character reading of even the most illegible doctor's handwriting could prove possible, may make the current legislation obsolete overnight, unless adequate provision is made to include manual records in the legislation.

An exasperated Lord Swinfen, in the House of Lords last year, exclaimed that government advisors did not seem to understand what a modern computer could do.

Government advisors know only too well what computers can do, which is why their exemption list in this Bill is so generously self-indulgent.

A free goodie in the bundle

BRIEFING

calculator and automatic telephone dialler should allow a business user to move easily into the era of computers and electronic data transmission.

The long-awaited new computer from Apple, the Macintosh, has, it seems, been launched at a moment too soon. On the day selected for a joint US-European launch, the company reported a huge drop in earnings, attributable, it says, to a hard price war.

Apple's new computer, heavily spending 80 million dollars on R & D, and 20 million dollars on a new machine. The new machine, using the 32-bit system developed for Lisa, is aimed directly at the IBM personal computer buyer, and is offering the new fastest, heavily pull-down menu and mouse. Ease of use is one of the big selling points, and to this end, there is a forty-minute audio training session included in the pack, which should allow the novice user to set to work almost immediately.

The main unit, which has a desk footprint of only 10 inches square, contains a nine-inch black and white monitor, a single 3½-inch disk drive holding 400K, and weighs less than some "portables", at only seventeen pounds. Macintosh has 129K of RAM and 64K of ROM.

After resisting the trend toward bundling, Epson have at last come out with the popular Wordstar word processing program, plus Calstar, and with the MBC555, are adding the spelling check program, Spellstar, Super-sort and Datasort. Selling at £700 the 555 has a single 5.25 inch disk drive with a capacity of 180K. Using MS/DOS and the 8088 processor, this machine, and the 555 with twin drives (and double the capacity) selling at £900 will both run a substantial amount of IBM PC compatible software.

The Wren, distributed by Prism, and built by Thorn EMI, is a sophisticated \$1000 machine, designed for sale to the business man who is a computer novice, and weighing under twenty pounds, is reasonably portable.

It has an integral seven inch amber screen, two 5.25 inch disk drives giving 400K capacity, 64K of RAM, expandable to 256K, and an auto disc modem, which allows instant access to Frettel, Micronet, and other videodata systems.

Three of the software packages are by Perfect. Their Writer, Calc and Filer make a useful business package, and coupled with the package called Executive desktop - which, operating from a familiar menu, provides diary, notepad,



'And this is the portable version...'

bedrooms - the Great Wall has 580, and the Lido 2,150.

China is the latest country to produce business for Software Sciences. "We developed CHAMPS to be the most comprehensive hotel system on the market," says general manager Tony Lucas, "and it is now serving hotel chains the world over."

Slight hitch on the lake

After flying a dozen British journalists to their factory, German computer manufacturer CTM caused consternation in their ranks by failing to deliver the promised information, writes Geoffrey Ellis.

The purpose of the trip was partly to announce the setting up of a British dealership to distribute their new 32-bit CTM 9032 multi-user system. But it was discovered that the contract with the prospective British company had not been signed.

Top-level discussions continued

UK Events

The Apricot & Sirius Show, Kensington & Chelsea Town Hall, February 7-9.

International Home Computers Ltd '84, Heathrow Penta, February 13-15.

Information Technology & Office Automation Exhibition and Conference, Barbican Centre, London, EC1, February 21-24.

Computer Trade Show, Wembley Conference Centre, March 13-15.

Electron and BBC Users' Show, Westminster Exhibition Centre, March 28-April 1.

Personal Business Computer Show, Hong Kong, February 29-March 3.

Securicom '84, Worldwide Congress on Computer and Communications Security and Protection, the Palais des Festivals, Cannes, February 29-March 2.

International Business Equipment & Computer Show, Singapore, March 13-17.

Personal Computer Show, Sydney, Australia, March 14-17.

Overseas

Personal Business Computer Show, Hong Kong, February 29-March 3.

Securicom '84, Worldwide Congress on Computer and Communications Security and Protection, the Palais des Festivals, Cannes, February 29-March 2.

International Business Equipment & Computer Show, Singapore, March 13-17.

Personal Computer Show, Sydney, Australia, March 14-17.

24-hour guide to the car market

By Frank Brown

Motorists should expect a better service from car dealers following the launching last week of a Viewdata service for the car trade by the publishers of Glass's Guide, the car trade's monthly car-price 'Bible'.

The service, called Gladiator, complements the well-known Guide and is aimed at executives in dealerships, second-hand car firms, fleet operators and other sectors of the trade. It operates around the clock and provides them with up-to-the-minute market information.

The database is held on British Telecom's Prestel system and is run as a "closed user group", Viewdata jargon which means that access to the database is limited to a select group - in this case, Gladiator subscribers.

To establish exactly what kinds of market information executives in the car trade need for decision making and business planning, Glass carried out a 15 month study, working with manufacturers and dealers.

As a result, Gladiator provides a much wider range of market information than that published in the monthly guide, or traditionally available from Glass's other services. Some 1,000 pages of data are available, and this is being increased

daily as new information is collated.

Categories of information include new car prices, auctions, statistics/market reports, official car performance figures, a diary of trade events, a "stop press" section of news items, and a list of manufacturers and commissionaires.

The statistical information provided covers new and used car business, including historical as well as the latest figures available, so that users can quickly prepare sales plans. The sales and residual values of key cars can also be selected.

Other pages include an advertising section for trade buyers willing to underwrite various makes or models of vehicles, and a 'how to contact Glass' section which enables subscribers to send messages to Glass, either supplying or requesting information, day or night.

All pages are constantly updated. On the first day, for example, subscribers were able to access 30 pages of information on Ford's latest price changes within hours of the changes being announced.

Gladiator is being offered to the 55,000 subscribers of Glass's

Continued on page 20

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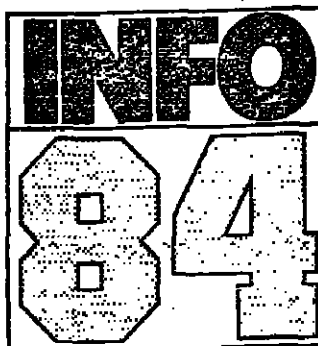
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The problem that disappears

By Roger Woolnough

Computer people call it the problem of the disappearing problem. It can take so long to develop a solution that by the time it is ready for use the problem no longer exists.

One reason for this is the growing complexity of users' demands. Back in the sixties, the average development time for a conventional program was about six months. Now, because computers are more powerful, and because users' conceptions of what they want are more sophisticated, the average development time for a fully documented and working system has grown to two years.

Stephens & Carter was faced with just this situation. The £30 million company supplies the construction industry with access equipment in the form of scaffolding, towers and ladders, providing hire and contract services from 22 depots throughout the country.

For 12 years it had been using its parent company's IBM mainframe for batch processing, but the increasing competitiveness of the business showed up the system's shortcomings.

"You would be six weeks behind with management information and stock availability

information," says managing director Eddie Boss, "and we have therefore had to use manual methods to back up the computer. The mainframe system was very good, but timeliness of the information was missing."

But to have used conventional application development techniques to tackle the problem would have taken far too long, so Stephens & Carter became one of the growing number of companies which has turned to a user-driven system. Instead of the data processing department developing a solution and operating it, the end-users - often with little or no computer experience - do it for themselves.

"We wanted to get away from this idea of a 'black box' department," explains Boss, "where the users try to specify their needs and the DP department comes out with its ideas, and a long time goes by. We wanted very much more user development in arriving at the system we needed."

The task was handed to Mike Downie, Stephens & Carter's administration manager, and Keith Knight, the company's DP and systems manager.



Downie... the man in charge

Downie, who was made project leader, had no computer knowledge at all. Knight was at the time the company's only professional DP employee.

As they studied possibilities, the two men came up with a list of computer companies which offered programming aids designed for end-users. Several

of these firms claimed that their systems enabled non-DP people to develop their own programs in a fifth of the time it took previously.

Six possibilities were winnowed down to Burroughs and Microdata, who were then subjected to exacting benchmark tests which lasted a week. Finally, Stephens & Carter chose the Burroughs LINC generator, LINC (Logic and Information Network Compiler) was announced in June 1982, and there are now 540 installations worldwide, including 54 in Britain. It permits a business

problem to be defined in a business language rather than a programming language and allows managements to design their own systems.

According to Burroughs, there are productivity improvements of 1000% over conventional techniques.

The application by Stephens & Carter relates to the operation of its depots. "We are aiming for something almost like an airline," comments Eddie Boss, "where someone can come into one of our depots, ask - for instance - for a tower, and get an immediate response. That may sound simple, but for a 20ft tower there could be 50 components which have to be available."

To start the system, Stephens & Carter is equipping the five busiest depots with a Burroughs B30 microcomputer, each with 10 megabytes of hard disk storage. During the day these micros will work off-line, but overnight each B30 will be linked to the B1965 central computer in the company's accounts office, so that updating can be carried out.

Management will receive up-to-date information through 19 terminals, also supplied by Burroughs, which are being stationed at the Brentford headquarters and in regional offices. These will be linked over dial-up lines to the central computer, giving users immediate access to the daily information gathered by the depot micros.

Roland, you're not the main attraction

Reluctant as I am to risk the wrath of the nation by maligning its best-loved totem, I am bound to point out that there is one area of British life in which Roland the Rat has been a dismal failure.

He, and the rest of his breakfast television colleagues, were supposed to lead the way in the great and growing fashion for second television set ownership. The market researchers who came up with this idea based their predictions on the notion that no-one would want to watch breakfast telly unless it was thrust before them on a portable across the kitchen table each morning.

They were wrong. Most people watch TV-*am* or Breakfast Time where they watch everything else - in the lounge, the research claims. So why is the second set ownership still growing? Partly because the economy is on the up again, but also, as any home computer owner with a young and keen computing family will know, because there is nothing less conducive to domestic bliss than an argument over whether the set should be used for another shot at The Hobbit or watching the latest BBC miniseries.

Home computers are the most insidious incentive to owning a second set ever invented. If you and your family use the machine regularly, you will find it increasingly difficult to satisfy your needs on one screen. If it seems that domestic harmony can only be restored by the purchase of another television set, take as small comfort the fact that you are part of the knock-on effect of the silicon chip revolution.

In evaluating our needs against what the market is trying to sell you, forget any idea of resurrecting the old black and white portable from the attic. All of today's popular home computers and their software are based upon the idea that they are being run on a colour screen. They might get away with forcing kids to play monochrome Pacman in trousers in Islington such an act would be on a par with wife-beating.

So, is a new 14-inch colour set the answer? Once more, we return to that well-played home-computing axiom: *It depends what you need.* In the beginning, computers were not made to work with the domestic television set; it is only the genetic engineering of the marketplace which has made them compatible, and not without a few drawbacks. For a start, the resolution - in other words, the amount of detail packed or to your set dot-by-dot - is frequently not as good as that

which your computer would be able to produce on a screen designed for it.

This brings us back to the old 40 columns versus 80 columns issue. The average computer will support a picture of 40 columns - which you might imagine as letters or rows of figures - and this will come out perfectly adequately on a normal television screen. Move up to 80 columns, however, and your average television is virtually unreadable.

It simply does not produce the resolution - the number of dots on the screen - to draw a reasonable picture.

If you are thinking of using a machine which might eventually upgrade to 80 columns, then, a second colour television will eventually prove useless. You can get around this fairly cheaply by using a monochrome computer monitor, one of those things with green or amber screens, which will carry the resolution of 80 columns and cost under £100. But games, and any applications which use colours for logistic purposes, are out.

HOME USER

By David Hewson

My advice to anyone facing this dilemma is this: ask yourself seriously if you want a second set for the computer or because you want to watch more television. It is all too tempting to go out and buy a portable and justify it on the grounds that it will come in useful on picnics, the breakfast table, or wherever. When the thing is surrounded by a serpent's nest of cables, you tend to find it stays where it is.

If you decide that you really want the screen as an outlet for the computer, then take a look at some of the cheaper colour monitors which are now coming on the market. The price is around the same as a portable set, and the resolution is much better, though not all will cope with 80 columns. Even if you never need to use the extra screen quality for professional applications, the improved picture on your children's games will surprise you.

It is worth checking the prices given in the equipment listing of the major computer magazines, and bearing in mind that some monitors work only with certain machines. A final word of advice which might apply to so many computing purchases: see it working, and satisfy yourself that it is what you want, before you part with your cash.

Car market guide

continued from page 19

Guide at an introductory rate of £150 a year plus VAT. Subscribers will also have to enrol in Prestel and rent or buy the necessary sets and printers. These can be obtained from most TV shops.

Glass's deputy managing director, Michael Lacey, has no doubts that the system will catch on. "The ability to select up-to-the-minute market information on the competition, and have a print-out of what's on the screen in less than five seconds, will obviously im-

mensely improve decision-making.

It is rather like using the phone, but instead of phoning for some information, you second-hand information, you phone the computer and get the latest facts and figures first hand."

Lacey estimates that only about 1500 of the 700 new-car dealerships in Britain have Viewdata experience, and this is through the private stock-control networks operated by the major manufacturers like BL.

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All applicants should be graduates, with at least twelve years' experience of the DP industry, including project and line management in large organisations, preferably in both the Public and Private sectors.

If you have the experience and abilities outlined above and wish to be considered for one of the positions, please send a chronological CV of up to four pages, or write or telephone for a Personal History form to: Bruce Wall, Divisional Director, Consultancy Division, Hoskyns Group Limited, Africa House, 64-78 Kingsway, London WC2B 6BL. Telephone: 01-242 1951.

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FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Governor looks to the longer term on debt

Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton's speech to the Overseas Bankers Club (one of the two great public occasions of the Governor's year) makes it plain that he is not going to diverge from the Bank of England line on international debt, as laid down under his predecessor. The international banking community, said Mr Leigh-Pemberton, "has to play a continuing and important part in meeting international financing needs". For the past two years the Bank of England has been urging international banks not to swing from over-lending to under-lending, visiting the sins of Poland or Argentina on their neighbours.

The latest figures from the Bank for International Settlements show how dramatically flows of bank finance to the developing countries had dried up by the autumn of last year, to such an extent that their loans from western banks were actually exceeded by the rise in their deposits with these banks. Mr Leigh-Pemberton's reminder that "it is in the interest of all to sustain and promote healthy world trade and payments flows" is a timely warning.

It is the Bank of England's view, articulated by the Governor last night, that the worst of the debt crisis is over, or, in his cautious phrase, "the acute pressures of a year ago may be beginning to ease". It was time, therefore, for him to touch on the search for longer-term solutions. On this the Bank remains typically pragmatic. Mr Leigh-Pemberton urged direct investment as a way for developing countries to attract capital flows without adding to their stock of debt.

So much for the responsibility of debtors to make themselves more attractive; what of the creditors? Mr Leigh-Pemberton welcomed the narrowing of spreads on some new loan packages, but he resisted the idea of more substantial interest relief. Instead he favoured "adjustment" (i.e. lengthening) of the repayment period for borrowed funds.

On the most vexed question of all, his touch was feather-light. The banks, he said, "need to reflect appropriately the deterioration which has occurred in the quality of many of their assets." Yes, but how? By rebuilding capital ratios, for a start - but only for a start. New processes are needed for assessing the quality of international loans. The responsibility, according to the Governor, rests with individual banks. The furthest he would

In that, he thought, banks might be helped by the new Institute of International Finance, which provided the other air speaker of the evening, and further food for thought among the assembled bankers. Neither Mr André de Larue, of the IIF, nor Mr Leigh-Pemberton seemed ready to take much of their oad of worry off their shoulders.

That is just as it should be. The Bank of England, in particular, has done a tremendous five-fighting job these past 18 months. Now the banks must work out their long-term salvation.

A warm welcome for inward investment

Now that Nissan has finally decided to set up an assembly plant in Britain, what can we really expect to gain? A more dynamic motor industry, perhaps, if the results of a timely study on inward investment published today by Chatham House are anything to go by. The ostensible objective - more jobs - would seem to be much more doubtful.

The study points out first of all that foreign firms, which come here to manufacture, are a good deal more

efficient and capital intensive than their domestic counterparts. Though only 2.5 per cent of manufacturing companies are under foreign control they produced 20 per cent of the output with only 14 per cent of the workforce. Japanese companies are no exception. The 24 which manufacture here (they have some £70m of assets) employ only 5,000 people; by that reckoning Nissan's initial 400 to 500 will be a significant addition.

By far the most important benefit from inward investment, the study says, is the managerial and technical expertise and the technological spin-off that comes with it. By the same token, the advent of a highly efficient foreign rival may well take jobs away from overmanned British companies. No wonder Nissan's arrival is viewed with mixed feelings by the industry. At best, the study estimates, about 10,000 to 15,000 jobs a year may have been created in manufacturing from inward investment - a minute proportion of the total.

The Government should not shed too many tears over this. Britain is better off trying to attract high value-added, high productivity activities than attempting to maximize jobs this could easily confirm its low wage/low productivity status. Inward investment: policy options for the United Kingdom by Michael Breeh and Margaret Sharp. Chatham House Papers 21. Royal Institute of International Affairs, Routledge and Kegan Paul (£4.95)

Walter Goldsmith steps down



Walter Goldsmith steps down in June after five years as director general of the Institute of Directors and goes on to become head of the British arm of Korn/Ferry International. Korn/Ferry claims to be the world's largest "head-hunting" executive search organization and has plans for expansion in Britain. The transfer still seems an anti-climax.

Mr Goldsmith leaves behind a trail of controversy, notably a period of trench warfare with the Confederation of British Industry. Yet whatever views are taken about the hard line monetarism, which has emerged from the IoD's Fall Mall headquarters the Institute certainly has been transformed in the Goldsmith years. As Lord Erroll, IoD president, remarked yesterday, the Institute has broken the monopoly which existed before on business representation in Britain.

C&W eyes China with bid for Hongkong Telephone

By Jonathan Davis and Bill Johnston

Cable & Wireless took a further big step forward on the expansionist trail in the Far East yesterday by announcing it is prepared to bid up to £300m to take majority control of the Hongkong Telephone Company, the colony's monopoly telephone utility.

Cable & Wireless took a 34.8 per cent stake in the Hongkong company just under a year ago in a cash-and-shares deal worth £143m (or HK\$36.3 a share). Now it is bidding HK\$45 a share for the rest in a move which will consolidate its already dominant position in the Hongkong telecommunications business.

The larger term strategic attraction of the deal for Cable & Wireless is that it will leave it ideally placed to exploit the potentially vast market for telecommunications that exists - largely untapped - on mainland China.

Mr Eric Sharp, Cable & Wireless's chairman, who was in Hongkong yesterday when the bid was announced, has repeatedly said that the sees China as one of the most important potential markets for his company.



Mr Eric Sharp (left) and Mr Ernest Potter: eyes on China

In the last 18 months Cable & Wireless has signed to joint venture deals with the Chinese for the provision of telecommunications links to the Shenzhen economic zone and to the fledgling Chinese offshore oil industry.

Hongkong Telephone Company's shares were suspended in Hongkong yesterday. The HK\$46-a-share bid represents a HK\$12-a-share premium over the closing price last Wednesday, when the market closed for the Chinese New Year holidays. Cable & Wireless had already

the practice of other Hongkong utilities.

If Cable & Wireless has to buy 100 per cent of the shares, it would cost approximately £288m in addition to the cost of the 3 per cent Li family holding. To obtain 51 per cent control would cost no more than £60m.

Mr Potter said that the deal would be financed by borrowings. "We have no plans for further share issues at the moment," he said. The Government, which denationalized Cable & Wireless in 1981 and sold a further tranche of the shares last September, holds 22.5 per cent of the company.

Cable & Wireless already operates Hongkong's external telecommunications, and yesterday's bid should give it full control of the local telephone system.

Hongkong Telephone made an after-tax profit of HK\$291m in 1982, the last full year for which there are accounts, and its latest interim figures show a 26 per cent increase in profits.

Cable & Wireless will also be well placed to standardize the use of equipment in the Hongkong area, leaving it in a powerful position from which to bid for telecommunications business in mainland China.

Inflation risk as producer prices rise

By Frances Williams, Economics Correspondent

Prices charged by manufacturers for goods at the factory gate are still rising only modestly despite the record consumer spending spree, the latest official figures suggest.

But there is little sign of the slowdown in producer price increases needed if inflation is to fall further by the end of the year as the Government hopes.

The Department of Trade and Industry confirmed yesterday that spending in the shops in December reached a record, with sales more than 6.5 per cent higher than a year earlier.

Families financed the spree by borrowing more than ever before. Nearly £1 billion of new consumer credit was advanced in December by shops and finance houses, and consumers also borrowed heavily from the banks.

At the end of last year the amount of consumer credit outstanding was 24 per cent higher than 12 months previously.

The high level of borrowing, brought about by abolition of credit controls, lower interest rates and falling inflation, has been a key motor of economic recovery, allowing spending to outstrip the rise in people's incomes.

In 1983 as a whole, the volume of business in the shops was 5.5 per cent higher than in 1982, while after-tax incomes rose by barely half that. Shops selling clothes, shoes and household goods have seen the biggest boost to sales - up by 11 per cent last year. Sales by department stores rose by 5.5 per cent.

Economic recovery has not yet sparked off a resurgence in inflation. Separate figures released yesterday show that factory gate prices rose by 0.6 per cent last month, traditionally the month that companies change their price lists, pushing up the annual rate slightly to 5.7 per cent from 5.6 per cent in December.

This is the highest annual rate for more than a year. This is disappointing for the Government, which last autumn forecast inflation falling from the present 5.3 per cent to 4.5 per cent by the end of the year, and the latest Treasury predictions are thought to be less optimistic.

The costs of industry's fuel, and raw materials have been rising rapidly in recent months, mostly reflecting higher commodity prices and a weaker pound. They rose in January by 1.1 per cent, less than the 3.4 per cent recorded in December, while the annual rate of increase edged up to 7.3 per cent from 7.2 per cent the previous month.

Fed retains grip on money supply

From Bailey Morris, Washington

The US Federal Reserve Board released new monetary targets for 1984 yesterday, which signaled its intention to maintain a continued tight rein on the money supply and at the same time retain maximum flexibility to respond to changes during an uncertain election year.

In its annual report to Congress, the Fed set 1984 targets for money supply and credit growth which were largely unchanged from the revised 1983 targets set last July, when it moved to slow the pace of economic expansion.

The new targets for the narrower M1 measure of money in circulation were set at from 4 per cent to 8 per cent annual growth, unchanged from the revised 1983 figures.

For the broader M2 and M3 measures of money supply - which the bank said would continue to be given additional weight in making policy - the targets were set at from 6 per cent to 9 per cent annual growth, a rate that would reduce growth slightly in the M2 measure, but leave M3 unchanged.

Targets for credit growth in 1984 were also left unchanged in the 8 per cent to 11 per cent target range.

Release of the report preceded by a day the scheduled appearance before Congress of Mr Paul Volcker, the fed central bank chairman, who was expected to deliver a strong warning of the dangers posed by the huge US budget deficit projected at \$200 billion.

The Fed's report placed considerable emphasis on the need to reduce the budget



Paul Volcker: Warning on deficit expected

deficit which it said would: "continue to drain-off an extremely large portion of available net saving in the economy", thus exacerbating tensions in beleaguered credit markets.

The report agreed with the finding of President Reagan's Council of Economic Advisers that the federal budget deficit was causing high interest rates which had widespread adverse repercussions for the international economy.

Not only were high rates exerting upward pressure on the dollar, but they were also "aggravating the debt service problems of major international debtors", the report said in calling for action to reduce the deficit.

Because of the uncertainties associated with the impact of the deficit on the economy, the fed said it would continue to place less emphasis on the narrow M1 measure of money supply in order to retain maximum flexibility in the coming year.

On the brighter side, the Fed forecast economic growth of from 4 per cent to 4.75 per cent

US deficit dispute grows

From Our Correspondent Washington

Mr Martin Feldstein, President Reagan's unopposed chief economics adviser, renewed his warning against the huge US budget deficit yesterday in his first public appearance since being told to cancel an appearance on a television show by the White House chief of staff.

Mr Feldstein told members of the House Budget Committee that if there was an effort this year and next to reduce the deficit, projected at \$200 billion (£140 billion) for the next four years, then the Administration's optimistic economic forecast, released last week, would be meaningless.

He said that without such action, growth would slow, interest rates would remain high, inflation would rise and there would be an uneven, fragile recovery, rather than the sustained one which has been forecast.

His renewed warning came after a denial by Mr George Bush, the vice president, that Mr Reagan's economics team was in disarray, and preceded the bipartisan negotiations this week between Congressional and Administration officials on ways to reduce the deficit.

Last week, a row flared between Mr Donald Regan, the US Treasury Secretary and Mr Feldstein in another public display of the internal division which reportedly divided Administration officials over economic policy.

Mr Feldstein and to a lesser degree, Mr David Stockman, director of the Office of Management and Budget, have warned repeatedly of the adverse impact of the deficits, which they have said must be tackled before the election.

Guinness pays out £223,000

By Jeremy Warner

Arthur Guinness & Sons has paid out £223,000 in compensation to former directors since Mr Ernest Saunders was appointed as managing director two years ago to help breathe new life into the ailing brewing group.

This is revealed in the company's report and accounts which was posted to shareholders yesterday. The payments were shared by Mr Tony Purcell, who resigned as deputy chairman in January last year after 30 years with the group, and Mr John O'Brien, who left his job as finance director in June after only 10 months with the company.

Mr O'Brien, who received £60,000 as his pay off, was regarded as a key element of the new management strategy launched under Mr Saunders and his sudden departure was greeted with surprise.

Mr Purcell who is 56, took his £163,000 in the form of a paid-up pension agreement. His position as executive deputy chairman of Guinness became uncertain soon after the arrival of Mr Saunders with a new management brief. Mr Purcell resigned about a year later.

Guinness had either sold or closed more than 30 companies in a sweeping programme of asset disposals designed to concentrate resources on the original brewing business since Mr Saunders was appointed.

Philips to control Grundig

By Jonathan Clare

Philips, the Dutch electronics company, is to take control of Grundig, its West German rival, in partnership with a consortium of banks after negotiating agreement with Dr Max Grundig, the company's founder.

Yesterday, Philips said it would take over a 7.1 per cent stake in Grundig from the Max Grundig Foundation for an unspecified price on April 1. This stake will take its total holding to 31.6 per cent.

The bank consortium, led by the Dresdner Bank, is subscribing for a form of debenture which is convertible into ordinary shares.

A new management company will also be formed on April 1 to run the company.

NEWS IN BRIEF

US look at Scott Lithgow

Bechtel yesterday began a feasibility study of Scott Lithgow on the Lower Clyde as a first step towards trying to buy the troubled shipyard. Bechtel, a branch of a California-based engineering and construction group, will have support from a consortium of Scottish financial institutions if they decide to bid for the yard against the shipping and property group Trafalgar House which has emerged as the chief contender.

A spokesman for Bechtel said yesterday the one element the company lacked in its UK operation was a fabrication yard. They were keen to remedy that. The feasibility report would be put to the consortium in about two weeks and a decision made then whether or not to bid for the yard.

Shareholders of Gleneglegh Hotels have not yet accepted a £27m takeover bid from Arthur Bell & Sons, are to be advised day by day by their directors to continue to hold but for a better offer.

Audiotronic is making an agreed bid worth £2.3m for Scan Data International, the computer supplier which is traded on the Unlisted Securities Market. The share offer values Scan at 99p; there is also an unwritten cash alternative of 94.5p. Audiotronic is also raising £1m from its institutional investors. The formal offer document will include a loss forecast for the present year.

WALL STREET

Shares trim worst losses

New York (AP-Dow Jones) - Stocks were steadily trimming their worst losses in early trading yesterday and some analysts talked of a short term rally possibly within a few days. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was down 11 points at 1,186, whittling away at the drop that had extended to 17 points.

Declines were about 1,160 issues to 270 ahead of advances. Trading was active but lagging the first hour pace.

Mr Monte Gordon, research director at Dreyfus Corp, said the market was increasingly frustrated "by its inability to sustain a rally. This perception is behind the drop."

Mr Gordon said: "There is no prospect in the present tax or spending policies of any way to lower the Federal deficit without the Federal Administration nor Congress providing any leadership. There is a rising interest cost to the Federal deficit and the only way to keep that from building is to cut spending."

The costs of industry's fuel, and raw materials have been rising rapidly in recent months, mostly reflecting higher commodity prices and a weaker pound. They rose in January by 1.1 per cent, less than the 3.4 per cent recorded in December, while the annual rate of increase edged up to 7.3 per cent from 7.2 per cent the previous month.

This is the highest annual rate for more than a year.

This is disappointing for the Government, which last autumn forecast inflation falling from the present 5.3 per cent to 4.5 per cent by the end of the year, and the latest Treasury predictions are thought to be less optimistic.

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There has been strong growth in own-label whiskies bottled for the supermarket chains mirroring the excess of stocks in the industry. Distillers believe that as stocks become more balanced the price differences between national brands - there are almost 100 of these - and own-label brands will diminish causing the pressure on margins.

In the first 10 months of last

year British releases of whisky from bond were down 2 per cent compared with the same period of the year before.

Distillers say they had at least as good a Christmas sales period as in 1982 so there is a good chance that sales into the trade for the year finished up about the same level as 1982.

The pattern of British sales has altered during the year. Releases from bond were 11 per cent down last March but the picture improved as the year progressed.

The big worry is that the Chancellor, faced with a possible reduction in tax returns from tobacco as cigarette sales decline, may shift the burden to alcoholic drinks.

Exports fell 9 per cent last year, contrasting with the slight improvement seen in 1982.

Some Third World countries

made massive cutbacks: Nigerian imports fell 62 per cent, Algerian 65 per cent, Somalia 83 per cent and Tanzania 93 per cent.

Venezuela, the most important South American market, brought in quotas cutting imports 40 per cent. With currency devaluation there pushing up prices by 100 per cent exports actually dropped 45 per cent.

In the two key markets - the US and Japan - shipments also declined. The US accounts for 30 per cent of Scotch exports. Sales of all spirits have tumbled in the US but there are signs of a switch back to whisky by American drinkers who had turned more to wine and white spirits. But Mr Mackinlay warned that a dramatic improvement could not be expected in the immediate future.

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MARKET REPORT by Michael Clark

Shares suffer worst day for 2½ years

More than £2 billion was wiped off share values yesterday as the London Stock Market suffered its worst day in nearly two and a half years.

Another sharp setback on Wall Street over the weekend set the trend with jobbers marking prices lower at the outset and watching them drift steadily down throughout the day.

The FT Index closed 16.9 down at 815.5. The previous biggest one day fall was on September 28, 1981, when the index fell 17.2 after Wall Street guru Mr Joe Granville predicted world stock market were going to enter a bear market not seen since the days of the Great Depression.

Many dealers had been predicting yesterday's shakeout for a number of weeks following the market's record breaking run. Even so, many investors were caught on the hop and

showed signs of panic as they tried to realise some of their profits.

Last night some brave souls were predicting that a few cheap buyers would appear on the scene later this week as the account drew to a close. They described the market undertone as still firm.

Leading industrials bore the brunt of the selling with sizable falls in Allied-Lyons 3p to 152p, BICC 6p to 270p, BTR 8p to 424p, Beecham 3p to 313p, Bowater 10p to 278p, Cadbury Schweppes 3p to 122p, Comtains 3p to 141p, Distillers 4p to 257p, GEC 6p to 184p, GKN 6p to 300p, Grand Metropolitan 8p to 330p, Hawker Siddeley 6p to 406p, Imperial Group 6p to 154p, Plessey 7p to 212p, Tate & Lyle 6p to 410p, Thorn EMI 12p to 627p and Vickers 10p to 130p.

The gilt-edged market continued to stagger under the weight of the Government's new £1,000m long "tap" announced on Friday. Losses at the longer end of the market extended to £1 amid nervous selling.

The jobbers were caught on the hop yesterday in shares of Castle GB, the kitchen and bathroom equipment distributor, where the price rebounded 11p a new high of 90p yesterday. This follows a visit to the company last week by broker Vickers da Costa, which is thought to have come away impressed. Unfortunately Vickers declined to comment on its findings.

Brewery shares appeared a little flat, worried by the prospect of an extra 7p on a pint following a ruling from the European Commission. Bass tumbled 10p to 308p, Allied-Lyons 3p to 152p, Belhaven 4p to 34p, HP Bulmer 5p to 238p, Grand Metropolitan 8p to 330p, Mansfield Brewery 2p to 384p, Scottish & Newcastle 1½p to 104½p and Whitbread "A" 2p to 143p.

Trafalgar House's move into

the North Sea - it purchased the largest share of the BP's Forties Field that was put on the market - has continued with the announcement that it now has received acceptances for 93 per cent of Candecca Resources.

The Trafalgar House bid for Candecca, which owns substantial North Sea exploration rights, valued the company at £78.5m. Trafalgar lost 3p to 214p.

Mr Gerald Ratner is being made up to the sole managing director of the jewelry company which bears family name. He was formerly joint MD with Mr Leslie Ritner who stands aside from the day to day running of the company, but will remain an executive chairman of the company. Ratner closed unchanged at 54p.

Massey Ferguson's loan stock was suspended in both Toronto and London yesterday while the North American Securities Commission worked out the pricing of new shares which can be converted from warrants issued as part of the Farm Equipment company's refinancing scheme. The shares are likely to be requested this morning. Each warrant exercised before February 29, at Can\$5 will entitle the holder to receive one ordinary share and one additional warrant.

The Australian entrepreneur Mr Robert Holmes a Court has been appointed chairman of Weeks Petroleum, the oil exploration group. This follows the decision of his own company, the Bell Group, to lift its stake in Weeks to 46 per cent of the total with the acquisition of an extra 30.5 million shares.

The news did little for the price of Weeks which tumbled 45p to 415p.

RIT & Northern has reduced its holding in LEP Group, the international freight forwarder, with the sale of 357,000 shares. It now owns 350,000 shares, or less than 5 per cent of the total. The United Kingdom Temperance and General Provident Institution bought a parcel of 150,000 LEP and now owns

750,000 shares, or 10.70 per cent. LEP closed unchanged at 505p.

The Edinburgh American Assets Trust has bought an extra 150,000 shares in Gramplan Holdings, the industrial holdings group, taking its interest up to 900,000 representing 8.36 per cent of the entire equity. The shares will be registered under the nominee name of Scotcom. Gramplan slipped 2p to 82p.

Shares of Robert Moss were unchanged at 85p despite the news that the Scottish Investment Trust has increased its holding to 1.58 million (11.4 per cent). The Kwait Investment Office has bought an extra 600,000 in the Stock Conversion Investment Trust lifting its stake to 4.36 million (8.34 per cent). Stock Conversion slipped 2p to 311p.

Aero Needles, Britain's largest supplier of knitting needles, has forecast pretax profits more than doubled at £588,000 for 1983 as the first step in its defence against the unwanted bid of 60p a share from Newell Furnishings, the UK subsidiary of Newell Inc the D-I-Y company. The group also intends to pay the dividend arrears on the Convertible Preference shares and says Newell's offer significantly undervalues the company.

Directors and shareholders speaking for over 50 per cent of the shares have already told the board they intend to reject the bid.

Shares of UKO International, the lens manufacturer, ended their recent strong run tumbling 16p to 142p. Yesterday the board had a private lunch with broker Panmure Gordon, which said nothing price sensitive had been discussed and that takeover speculation had added a certain amount of froth to the share price.

Bluemel Bros, the manufacturer of metal polishes, slipped ½p to 14p after the private company Bulkeley Investments completed a reshuffle of its shareholding. It has decided to sell 333,000 Bluemel shares for an undisclosed sum and bought a further 488,000 taking its holding to 2.1 million.

Estates Property Investment climbed 3p to 151p as the Dutch company Clabir International bought an extra 225,000 shares.

COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF

● Wyndham Engineering: Terms have been agreed under which the company will acquire Harrowby Street Properties, a subsidiary of Control Securities, a freehold property known as 2-8 The Rock, Bury for £240,000. Consideration will be satisfied by the allotment of 300,000 fully paid ordinary shares of Wyndham to Control Securities Group.

● Malaysia Rubber Company: Nine months to December 31, 1983. Net revenue £41,301 (£28,978). Dividends from associated companies £35,714 (£50,407). Tax £23,111 (£15,426). Earnings per share, 2.99 (1.94p). Net asset value, 196.67p (125.31p). Figures including dividends declared by Kinta Kelas Rubber Estates to February.

Sanderson joins GRA to advise on property

By Jonathan Clare

Mr Frank Sanderson has joined the board of GRA Group to help decide which of the company's dog tracks will be used for greyhound racing and which turned over to property development.

Mr Sanderson, aged 57, has enormous experience in property and building. He was chief executive of Bovis during the abortive bid for the Peninsula and Oriental Steam Navigation Co in 1972.

He revealed yesterday that he was also once a breeder and trainer of greyhounds. However, he said such a combination of talents was unusual but not unique and the investi-

gation of the GRA's dog racing side required financial rather than canine knowledge.

Mr Sanderson has an interest in GRA both through a personal shareholding and through the stake held by Marchwiel, the holding company for the Sir Alfred MacAlpine building group, where he is on the board. Marchwiel took over Finlas, Mr Sanderson's company which went private in 1980, for £11m 18 months ago.

The Marchwiel stake is part of the 26.3 per cent stake acquired from the ICI pension fund by a consortium led by Mr Isidore Kerman, GRA's chairman.

Distillers US deal near completion

The Distillers Company is close to completing the \$300m (£211m) purchase of one of its main whisky distribution and marketing companies in the United States.

The big distilling group disclosed two weeks ago that it was in talks with Esmark of Chicago over the possibility of buying Somerset Importers which handles the distribution of Johnnie Walker Red and Black labels in the United States.

Senior executives of Distillers are in New York at the moment putting the finishing touches to a deal.

Esmark acquired Somerset as part of its \$1 billion takeover of Norton Simon last summer.

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY PRICES			
Commodity	Unit	Price	Change
Rubber (RSS)	100 lb	900.00	0.00
Coffee (Arabica)	100 lb	100.00	0.00
Cocoa (Holland)	100 lb	1800.00	0.00
Silver (large)	100 oz	150.00	0.00
Silver (small)	100 oz	150.00	0.00
Aluminium	100 lb	100.00	0.00
Lead	100 lb	100.00	0.00
Gold	100 oz	100.00	0.00
Platinum	100 oz	100.00	0.00
Palladium	100 oz	100.00	0.00
Nickel	100 lb	100.00	0.00
Copper	100 lb	100.00	0.00
Zinc	100 lb	100.00	0.00
Iron	100 lb	100.00	0.00
Steel	100 lb	100.00	0.00
Wool	100 lb	100.00	0.00
Grain	100 lb	100.00	0.00
Oil	100 lb	100.00	0.00
Gas	100 lb	100.00	0.00
Electricity	100 lb	100.00	0.00

WALL STREET

LONDON COMMODITY PRICES		LEAD		FEB 3		FEB 2		FEB 3		FEB 2	
Rubber in £s per tonnes		CASH		276.00-75.00							
Coffee, cocoa, sugar in pounds per		3 months		288.00-75.00							
cane-oil in US \$ per metric ton		T/C		2500							
		Tone: Steady									
RUBBER		ZINC		648.00-69.00							
Mich 900.00		3 months		698.00-65.00							
S.M. 900.00		T/C		670.00							
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APPOINTMENTS

Board seat for Sears executive

Sears Holdings: Mr Howard Perlin, a senior executive with the group, has been appointed a director.

Thromorton Trust: Mr Christopher Gibbons has also become a director of Thromorton Secured Growth Trust and The New Thromorton Trust (1983).

Charterhouse SA: Mr Andre de Sike has joined the board.

The Phoenix Timber Group: Mr Alexander Gourvitch has retired as chairman. He retains his seat on the board as a non-executive director and has been appointed life president of the company. Mr Dennis Cook has become chairman and will continue as group managing director. Mr Michael Hermann has been appointed an additional main board director. He is managing director of Phoenix Preservation.

Cullens Stores: Mr David Matanle has joined the board. He has been company secretary since August 1983.

Trend Communications: Sir Hugh Cunningham has joined the board of the company which is the data communications division of Phicom.

Enterprise Oil: Dr Myles Brown becomes exploration director from March 1.

National Carriers Contract Services: Mr Mike Tarrant has been appointed managing director. He takes over from Mr Paul Rivett who was recently appointed managing director of Downards-Pickford Pty, the Australian removals and distribution subsidiary of the National Freight Consortium based in Melbourne.

Metropolitan Services: Mr S J Brogan and Mr K J Jenkins have become directors.

Wigham Poland Professional Indemnity: Mr Johnathan Dodd has joined the company as a director, specializing in credit and bonding, both domestic and export covers.

River and Mercantile Trust: Mr Antony Foucar has been appointed chairman, succeeding Mr David Jamieson.

Drake & Scull: Mr Michael Muntion has become director of marketing and technology.

F Chambers & Company: Mr David Harrison has been appointed marketing and sales director. Mr Brian Bous has become operations director and Mr Alan Whincup, research and development director.

Marketing and advertising: Torin Douglas looks at the food market

Shaping up for a healthy future

As the trend towards healthier eating becomes established, with concern over diet no longer the preserve of slimmers and health food freaks, a growing number of food and drink companies are developing the health platform for products aimed at the mass market.

This week sees the launch by St Ivel, the fresh foods division of Unigate, of what it describes as Britain's first range of low fat dairy products. Called St Ivel Shape, the range initially consists of fresh milk, cheese, cottage cheese and soft cheese products, with other lines, including yoghurts and desserts, planned for later in the year.

A £2.1m promotion is planned for the launch, including a £1m television advertising campaign starting next month, with back-up from advertisements in women's and slimming magazines. St Ivel says this is the heaviest investment it has put behind any launch in its history.

The decision to market a low fat range in mass market comes after the success of St Ivel Gold, a low fat spread developed in Sweden and brought to Britain six years ago. Gold has single handedly developed this sector of the market, with sales growing by 25 per cent a year. It now has sales of nearly £30m a year, making it as big a brand in value terms as Stork margarine.

St Ivel is not alone, however, in successfully capitalizing on the trend to healthier eating. The first leading brand to be developed on this platform was Van den Bergh's Flora margarine 10 years ago. Flora calls itself "the margarine for men", being high in polyunsaturated fats. Flora is now the third largest brand in the margarine market.

Kellogg's has also adjusted its marketing programme to take account of the trend, by advertising its bran-based products more heavily.

In this case, the health concern is not fats but fibre, and in particular the impact of the F-Plan diet in 1982, which extolled the virtues of products such as baked beans and bran cereals. Kellogg's had already been planning to advertise products such as All Bran, Bran Flakes and Sultana Bran more heavily, but with the arrival of the F-Plan diet it put even more money behind them, more than doubling the previous year's budget. Sales of Bran Flakes

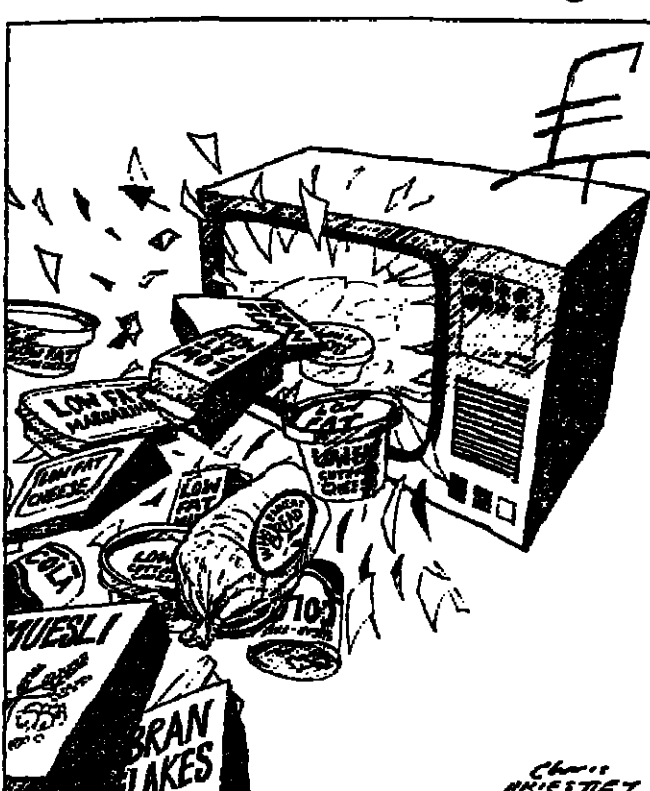
rose by 40 per cent last year and have doubled in two years.

Both Kellogg's and St Ivel maintain that healthy eating is now a matter of concern to consumers in general, and not just a small section of the population. "For some time there have been indications that housewives are becoming more and more health conscious in their choice of food for their families", says Mr David Merriott, St Ivel's marketing director.

"Following a number of statements and reports, such as the one issued by the Royal College of Physicians a year ago, saying that the nation should reduce the amount of fat it consumed, housewives have responded by regulating family diets. While less than 10 per cent of housewives are strictly dieting, our research shows that over two-thirds are now actively regulating their family diets for health or weight reasons."

Mr David Clark, director of sales and marketing for Kellogg's, says: "There is an awareness about the need for a balanced diet among the whole population, and not just a small health-conscious section. People are taking notice of what the nutritionists are saying."

"Bran products are the fastest-growing sector of our market at the moment, closely followed by muesli products, which are perceived as being a healthy cereal because they are made from natural ingredients. However, I have to say that we are also seeing growth in some



strategy of Gold is "Half the fat but all the taste."

The taste problem has dogged the soft drink business for many years, with "diet" versions based on saccharine being distinctive for their unpleasant aftertaste. The launch of the new aspartame "Nutrasweet" sweetener last autumn will shake-up this sector considerably, since that after-taste is substantially reduced.

Pepsi-Cola relaunched its Diet Pepsi brand in November last year with a new formula, blending Nutrasweet with saccharine, and it is running a television, press and promotion campaign for the brand, on the platform of the "new great taste".

The company claims its brand is the first leading national diet soft drink without the characteristic aftertaste - although Coca-Cola is expected to respond with its own NutraSweet version soon - and that diet colas will take a far greater share of the market in future.

In Canada, where a similar Nutra Sweet-based Diet Pepsi product has been on sale for two years, sales of diet colas have increased by 88 per cent in the last twelve months, and now represents 19 per cent of cola

sales. In Britain, where the sector is worth £20m and already growing at 30 per cent a year, the diet share is still just 7 per cent. Pepsi estimates that if Britain responds similarly to Canada, an extra £15m of diet sales could be generated in the next year.

The bread market is also showing the trend to healthier, better-balanced diets. Whole-

The greatest interest is centred on dairy products

meal and wheatmeal loaves are now eaten in twice as many households as they were five years ago, and the long-term decline in bread consumption is levelling out.

Nevertheless, it is in the dairy markets, and in particular the "yellow fats" market, which includes butter, margarine and the low-fat spreads, that the greatest interest is centred. The yellow-fats and cheese markets are each worth over £600m a year and it is here that much of the confusion and controversy which foods are better for you is centred.

For example, although Flora is high in polyunsaturated fats, it is still high in fats, and therefore calories. Gold, by contrast, contains less than half the fats of butter or margarine, though largely, it must be said, because it is 51 per cent water.

"The debate between butter and margarine has become very confused by the polysaturates issue", says Mr Anthony Horne, marketing manager for the St Ivel Shape range. "The reason Gold has become successful is because it has drawn itself away from that argument by stating quite clearly that it has less than half the fats of butter and margarine and that it tastes good. We believe that with a similar platform, the Shape range will do very well."

St Ivel Shape Milk is a fresh milk, not a UHT or skimmed milk product, which contains just over 1 per cent fat compared to just under 4 per cent in full cream milk. This market has increased by 50 per cent in the last year, but still accounts for only 4 per cent of total milk sales, compared with 63 per cent in France and 38 per cent in Holland and Germany.

Shape cheese is a cheddar-type cheese that was test-marketed in Wales and the West of England a year ago. It has half the fat content of standard cheddar and in its first six months it took 13 per cent of the branded pre-packed cheese market in the region, as well as obtaining distribution throughout the area. Its main competitor is Tendale, which is already nationally marketed by the Dairy Crest offshoot of the Milk Marketing Board. There are also cottage and soft cheeses in the Shape range.

It is not just manufacturers who have started to capitalize on the concern for health, however.

Sainsbury has had great success with its own brand of low fat milk. Vitapint, while Boots is developing a range of shops-within-shops called Boots Food Centres, which will concentrate on healthy and natural foods, such as wholemeal breads, muesli and bran cereals, broadening the range of the health foods it has sold in many stores for several years.

As Mr Clark points out, however, the trend is not all in one direction. This week also sees the launch of an extension of one of the most successful of all new products in recent years - McCain's Oven Chips.

£1.23m loss taints Immediate success

Immediate Business Systems, the portable computer billing system company, made pre-tax losses of £1.23m in the six months to last September.

The shares, which are quoted on the Unlisted Securities Market, plunged 17p to a low of 83p. The company has been a darling of the technology stock watchers and the shares have been as high as 33p.

The company makes billing systems for utility companies, which allows meter-readers to produce an immediate bill. It has also developed a tough portable computer, which should provide an increasing proportion of its business.

Mr Gordon Griffiths, the newly appointed executive vice-chairman, said: "To put it in a nutshell, market penetration has been slower than the directors had anticipated. The delay in income has been overcome by the cost of penetrating markets but the orders are beginning to come in."

The loss for the first six months last year was £794,000 on turnover of £206,000. Turnover for the six months was £294,000.

The company said last year that it had £5m worth of potential contracts - these have realised £4m worth of business and there are potential new orders worth a further £4.5m.

In brief

● American Brands: The net income of US packaged goods and services company reached a record \$390m or \$6.76 per common share in 1983, compared with \$381m or \$6.55 per share in 1982.

Net sales for the year were a record \$7.1 billion, up 9 per cent from \$6.5 billion in 1982. Despite substantially higher income taxes in the quarter ended December 31, net income was up slightly to a record \$104m or \$1.81 per common share, compared with \$103.8m or \$1.80 in 1982. Pretax rose 8 per cent to a record \$177m and net sales rose 11 per cent to \$1.8 billion.

Mr Edward Whittemore, the chairman, said: "Our unit performed exceptionally well during 1983. Operating income records were posted by the American Tobacco Company, Jim Beam, Sunshine Biscuits and Thelma Golf, which sold a record 82 million golf balls. In office products, our three US companies and two in Great Britain all posted sharp increases.

"Overall, our large UK subsidiary, Gallaher, had a superb year, with net income up 38 per cent. Despite a 13 per cent decline in the average exchange rate for the British pound, net income was up 23 per cent in dollars."

● Stocklake Holdings: Six months to September 30, 1983. Interim dividend 3p (same). Figures in £000. Turnover 12,018 (11,857). Pretax profit 1,466 (1,930). Tax 773 (1,000). Earnings per share 16.5p (22p). As reported in the chairman's statement with the accounts, trading conditions during the first half of the present financial year continued to be difficult.

● Hammerson Property: Hammerson's offer, through its wholly owned subsidiary Hammerson Canada, to acquire the common shares of Mascan Corporation has become unconditional.

Acceptances of 99 per cent have been received and the offer remains open for acceptance received on or before February 2. The Board has allotted the 1,391m new ordinary and 4,97m new A ordinary (limited voting) shares which were placed through Kleinwort Benson.

● Quest Automation: The company has signed an agreement to acquire Raw Computers by its subsidiary Quest International Computers. Raw designs and manufactures a range of technologically advanced microcomputer peripherals.

The acquisition will be completed on March 1 by means of a share issue by Quest Automation of 375,000 Quest ordinary in exchange for 100 per cent of the Raw issued share capital.

● Heelamar Holdings: Results for 26 weeks to October 29, 1983. Interim 2p (same). Figures in £000. Turnover 2,601 (2,411). Pretax profit 136 (51). Tax 71 (39). Undiluted 2.1p (1.3p). Fully diluted 1.2p (0.6p). Shares 80p on 3p.

The company has continued to upgrade the quality of its units by refurbishment and has re-sited others. The company trades from 100 units having opened five and closed three smaller ones.

● Juliana's Holdings: The company has acquired the business of Dyas Marqueses for £180,000. Dyas supplies Marqueses on hire terms to a wide range of customers and is based in Southampton. Included in the price is a freehold property in Southampton.

Name		Offer Price	Offer Yield
Authorized Dealers			
1. ABC Ltd			
2. DEF Ltd			
3. GHI Ltd			
4. JKL Ltd			
5. MNO Ltd			
6. PQR Ltd			
7. STU Ltd			
8. VWX Ltd			
9. YZA Ltd			
10. ABC Ltd			
11. DEF Ltd			
12. GHI Ltd			
13. JKL Ltd			
14. MNO Ltd			
15. PQR Ltd			
16. STU Ltd			
17. VWX Ltd			
18. YZA Ltd			
19. ABC Ltd			
20. DEF Ltd			
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22. JKL Ltd			
23. MNO Ltd			
24. PQR Ltd			
25. STU Ltd			
26. VWX Ltd			
27. YZA Ltd			
28. ABC Ltd			
29. DEF Ltd			
30. GHI Ltd			
31. JKL Ltd			
32. MNO Ltd			
33. PQR Ltd			
34. STU Ltd			
35. VWX Ltd			
36. YZA Ltd			
37. ABC Ltd			
38. DEF Ltd			
39. GHI Ltd			
40. JKL Ltd			
41. MNO Ltd			
42. PQR Ltd			
43. STU Ltd			
44. VWX Ltd			
45. YZA Ltd			
46. ABC Ltd			
47. DEF Ltd			
48. GHI Ltd			
49. JKL Ltd			
50. MNO Ltd			
51. PQR Ltd			
52. STU Ltd			
53. VWX Ltd			
54. YZA Ltd			
55. ABC Ltd			
56. DEF Ltd			
57. GHI Ltd			
58. JKL Ltd			
59. MNO Ltd			
60. PQR Ltd			
61. STU Ltd			
62. VWX Ltd			
63. YZA Ltd			
64. ABC Ltd			
65. DEF Ltd			
66. GHI Ltd			
67. JKL Ltd			
68. MNO Ltd			
69. PQR Ltd			
70. STU Ltd			
71. VWX Ltd			
72. YZA Ltd			
73. ABC Ltd			
74. DEF Ltd			
75. GHI Ltd			
76. JKL Ltd			
77. MNO Ltd			
78. PQR Ltd			
79. STU Ltd			
80. VWX Ltd			
81. YZA Ltd			
82. ABC Ltd			
83. DEF Ltd			
84. GHI Ltd			
85. JKL Ltd			
86. MNO Ltd			
87. PQR Ltd			
88. STU Ltd			
89. VWX Ltd			
90. YZA Ltd			
91. ABC Ltd			
92. DEF Ltd			
93. GHI Ltd			
94. JKL Ltd			
95. MNO Ltd			
96. PQR Ltd			
97. STU Ltd			
98. VWX Ltd			
99. YZA Ltd			
100. ABC Ltd			

INVESTORS' NOTEBOOK ● edited by Michael Prest

The price earnings multiple would fall at 280p to 8, assuming a hefty 35 per cent tax charge. The yield at this price, even if the company does no more than restore the dividend to its 1981 level, would be 5.4 per cent.

Such a rating for a company of this type at one time have seemed a little ambitious. But then nobody would have believed the London Brick could successfully resist a takeover bid at 145p a share six months ago.

According to figures published yesterday by Hanson, its

bid has so far received a dismal 2 per cent acceptances and with the asset valuation and dividend forecast for 1984 yet to come, the tide is very much in favour of Londong Brick retaining its independence. Hanson must either raise its bid or go away. Beyond that, the whole sector deserves reassessment in the light of these events.

1984				Gross	
Low	Company	Price	Change	per	year
				ounce	%
- Z					
134	TDR	207	-4	9.2	0.1
132	TI Group	208	-6	10.7	5.8
132	TACC	195	-2	4.3	2.2
14	TSL Therm Synd	63	+5		
147	TSW	26		1.7	6.1

[illegible]

120	Formulator	153					
121	Formulator	153					
122	Formulator	153					
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199	Formulator	153					
200	Formulator	153					

1 month	9½%	7 months	9½%
2 months	9½%	8 months	9½%
3 months	9½%	9 months	9½%
4 months	9½%	10 months	9½%
5 months	9½%	11 months	9½%
6 months	9½%	12 months	9½%
Secondary Mkt. SCO Rates(%)			
1 month	9½%	6 months	9½%
3 months	9½%	12 months	9½%
Local Authority Market(%)			
3 days	9½%	3 months	9½%
1 days	9½%	6 months	9½%
9½	9½	1 year	9½
Interbank Market(%)			
Overnight: Open	9½	Close 10	
1 week	9½%	6 months	9½%
3 months	9½%	9 months	9½% 9½%
6 months	9½%	12 months	9½%
First Class Finance Dealers (Mkt. Rate(%)			
3 months	9½	6 months	9½
Finance House Base Rate M 9½			

[illegible]

300	Great Britain	100	1	1.0	0.9
295	France	100	1	1.0	0.9
310	Japan	100	1	1.0	0.9
285	U.S.	100	1	1.0	0.9
280	De Coev	100	1	1.0	0.9
162	Greece	100	1	1.0	0.9
150	Gen. Inv. Trst	100	1	1.0	0.9
145	Gen. Securit	100	1	1.0	0.9
140	Gen. Trst	100	1	1.0	0.9
135	Greenfinch	100	1	1.0	0.9
130	Griffiths	100	1	1.0	0.9
125	Griffiths	100	1	1.0	0.9
120	Griffiths	100	1	1.0	0.9
115	Griffiths	100	1	1.0	0.9
110	Griffiths	100	1	1.0	0.9
105	Griffiths	100	1	1.0	0.9
100	Griffiths	100	1	1.0	0.9
95	Griffiths	100	1	1.0	0.9
90	Griffiths	100	1	1.0	0.9
85	Griffiths	100	1	1.0	0.9
80	Griffiths	100	1	1.0	0.9
75	Griffiths	100	1	1.0	0.9
70	Griffiths	100	1	1.0	0.9
65	Griffiths	100	1	1.0	0.9
60	Griffiths	100	1	1.0	0.9
55	Griffiths	100	1	1.0	0.9
50	Griffiths	100	1	1.0	0.9
45	Griffiths	100	1	1.0	0.9
40	Griffiths	100	1	1.0	0.9
35	Griffiths	100	1	1.0	0.9
30	Griffiths	100	1	1.0	0.9
25	Griffiths	100	1	1.0	0.9
20	Griffiths	100	1	1.0	0.9
15	Griffiths	100	1	1.0	0.9
10	Griffiths	100	1	1.0	0.9
5	Griffiths	100	1	1.0	0.9
0	Griffiths	100	1	1.0	0.9

[illegible]

99	115	Anglia TV 'A'	179	..	10.0	5.6	13.2	2
98	127	Anglo American Ind	210	..	11.0	6.0	8.4	1
10	39	Aquascutum 'A'	34	..	2.9	8.6	68.0	1
103	111	Arcetyl Grp	158	-1	5.4	4.1	17.8	1
10	382	Arn & Lacy	283	-6	23.4	3.3	9.3	1
103	171	Asa Book	493	..	10.7	5.5	12.4	1
10	129	Asa Brit Food	166	..	6.9	4.1	7.4	1
103	105	Asa Dairies	132	-2	3.7	2.4	22.0	1
102	39	Asa Fisheries	91	..	2.3	3.6	9.9	1

54	Glosson PLC	47	-1	8.8	3.8	8.4
92	Glynwed	132	..	10.5	7.3	34.6
96	Good Relations	228	..	11	1.8	48.1
91	Gordon & Gotch	123	..	10.7	8.2	11.2
144	Granada 'A'	187	-3	8.3	4.4	25.0
301	Grand Met PLC	530	-8	13.8	4.2	9.9
32	Grattan PLC	66	+2	25.5
503	Gt Unity Stores	683	..	20.7	3.4	13.3
498	Do A	896	-3	20.7	3.5	13.1

1 week	\$4-5 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 months	\$4-5 $\frac{1}{2}$
1 month	\$7-8 $\frac{1}{2}$	9 months	\$11-12 $\frac{1}{2}$
3 months	\$11-12 $\frac{1}{2}$	12 months	\$14-15 $\frac{1}{2}$

First Class Finance House (Adv. Rate%)

3 months	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 months	9 $\frac{1}{2}$
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Finance House Base Rate 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ %

Sold

Gold fixed: am. \$390.48 (an ounce):
n. \$389.60 close. \$381.25-381.75
287.10-287.60). (per coin: \$392.50-
\$404.25) 287.25-287.75).
Silver: 180.30-200.50
62.50-63.00). * Excludes VAT

86	Ida Trust Co	81		3.4	6.5
374	Merchants Trust	78	-2	3.4	4.4
Monks		133	-1	2.4b	2.5
365	Murray Cal	93		6.3b	6.8
365	Do 'B'	89			
365	Murray Clyde	73	-1		
365	Do 'B'	49	-3		
121	Murray Glend	240		4.5	1.8
87	Murray N'thn	133		2.3b	1.9
82	Do 'B'	148	-8		

Ex dividend = Ex all. b Forecast dividend. c Corrected price. d Interim payment named. f Price as suspension. g company. h Pre-merger. i Name. j Forecast earnings. k Capital distribution. l Ex rights. m Excepts or share split. n Significant date. o Price adjusted for late dealings. .. No

99	115	Anglia TV 'A'	179	..	10.0	5.6	13.2	2
98	127	Anglo American Ind	210	..	11.0	6.0	8.4	1
10	39	Aquascutum 'A'	34	..	2.9	8.6	68.0	1
103	111	Arcetyl Grp	158	-1	5.4	4.1	17.8	1
10	382	Arn & Lacy	283	-6	23.4	3.3	9.3	1
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82	Do 'B'	148	-8		

Ex dividend = Ex all. b Forecast dividend. c Corrected price. d Interim payment named. f Price as suspension. g company. h Pre-merger. i Name. j Forecast earnings. k Capital distribution. l Ex rights. m Excepts or share split. n Significant date. o Price adjusted for late dealings. .. No

[illegible]

RACING: GRAND NATIONAL WINNER MAY FIND WEIGHT CONCESSION BEYOND HIM

Bonum Omen to relish testing conditions

By Michael Seely

Corbiere, the top weight in the Grand National and already favourite to repeat his last year's Aintree triumph, is one of five entries for this year's race that have been declared for the George Coney Challenge Cup at Warwick today. At Cheltenham, recently Jenny Pittman's superb jumper showed that he was returning to his best when finishing second to Last Suspect. But Corbiere may still find it beyond his powers to give 15lb to Bonum Omen.

During a purple patch in the middle of last season Bonum Omen showed his relish for testing conditions and extreme distances by winning three races in succession. In the process he covered nearly twelve miles and won by a total of 35 lengths. On the strength of these performances Bonum Omen started a heavily backed second favourite for the National, but was never enjoying himself on the fast going and was out of the race when he was hampered and refused on the second circuit.

Because of the drought in the Autumn Fulke Walwyn was unable to train Bonum Omen seriously earlier in the season. However, the gelding ran well for a long while finishing fifth to Burrough Hill at Cheltenham at the end of December. Bonum Omen is now thought to be back to his peak.

Of the other runners Peaty Sandy, like Corbiere, has won a Welsh National and the Scottish trained ten-year-old also enjoys soft ground. However, although Corbiere should now be capable of reversing his Cheltenham placings with Last Suspect it is impossible to oppose Bonum Omen.

Walwyn can complete a double by winning the second division of the Rytton Novices Hurdle with Hill's Pageant. The winner of a group three race on the flat in Frankfurt last July, Hill's Pageant is a 15lb favourite for the Rytton Novices Hurdle. He has won 28,000 guineas at the Newmarket December sales and is said to have taken kindly to hurdling.

Another attraction at Warwick will be the reappearance of Spartan Missile and Venture To Cognac in the second division of the Air Wedding Hunters Chase. John White takes the mount in public for the first



Mossy Moore makes a giant leap on his way to victory at Fontwell yesterday (Photograph: Chris Cole)

time on the Thorne family's gallant old warrior. This is the first of several runs planned in this kind of race before it is decided whether to aim Spartan Missile at the National for a second time. However, Venture To Cognac certainly looks the one to be on in receipt of 6lb from his rival.

Another likely looking bet is Mollington in the Burton Hill Handicap Hurdle. John Webb's mudlark won a couple of novice hurdles in January last year. He also ran more than respectably behind Saxon Farm in the Triumph Hurdle at Cheltenham and again when sixth to Very Promising at Liverpool. It requires no great stretch of the imagination to see Mollington proving difficult to beat with only 10st 8lb to carry

Shergar reward stands

On the eve of the anniversary of the kidnapping of Shergar, Irish police have confirmed that Captain Sean Barry, secretary of the Irish Thoroughbred Breeders' Association, is one of a handful of people to have been in contact with the gang who stole Shergar.

The ITBA, who at one stage offered a reward for the recovery of the horse alive, said last night that cash was still available for concrete information even if, as they now believe, the horse is dead. "The amount will depend on the information and what it will lead to," Captain Barry said.

He described his efforts during last year to persuade the kidnappers to lead him to the horse in return for the reward - which was much lower than the £2m originally demanded. "A man contacted me by phone last March 17 after the association

announced a reward," Captain Barry said. "A code word was arranged and there were several negotiations over the phone from then until the end of last May."

"I spoke to the same man most of the time. He spoke with an ordinary Irish accent - definitely not northern and definitely not deep south, he was probably from somewhere in the Midlands."

Contact was ended by the gang when Captain Barry insisted on some proof that the horse was alive before handing over any cash. He and the police now believe that Shergar was killed by the gang within three days of being stolen.

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Rowe booked for Janus

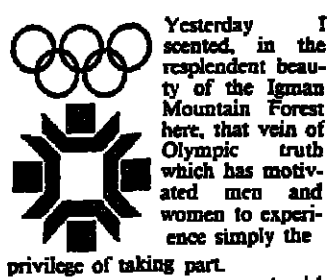
Richard Rowe walked into rainsoaked Fontwell Park yesterday and was immediately booked by the police for driving without insurance.

The 35-year-old jockey, who is still on the injured list, expects to resume at Ascot tomorrow. Rowe declined comment on a broken collar-bone said: "I've not ridden the horse before, but I'll go over and have a sit on him this time. I lost a winning ride, because I was unable to partner Janus in the Lascaris Hurdle when I was injured."

Today's Carlisle meeting had been cancelled because of waterlogging.

A heady scent as pungent as Yugoslav slivovic

From David Miller, Sarajevo



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Sitting with the British team in the cosy competitors' lodge, the Olympic motif was as pungent as the slivovic. "Never mind the Russians and the East Germans, we're doing it for enjoyment," said Tony McLeod, brother of Olympic runner Mike McLeod. Russia has 2.5 million cross-country skiers, and 2,000 biathlon competitors. Britain's regular biathlon competitors number 25.

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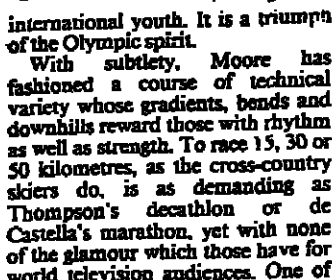
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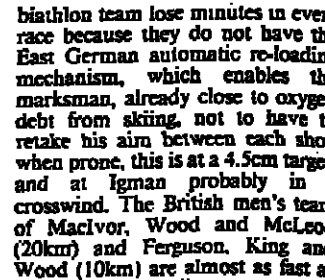
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A year in which mares could make their mark

By Ian Reid

There are several new venues and one new fixture in the new point-to-point season which begins on Saturday. The West Shropshire Draughts will hold their first point-to-point meeting at Weston Park on April 14. The Rose Harriers and the South Herefordshire move from Belmont to a new course owned by Sir John and Lady Cotterell at Garsdon, near Hereford. The Tredgar Farmers shift to Brassage, near Newport. The Clifton-on-Teme to Upper Sapey, north of Bromsgrove, the Dulton, East to Mounsey Hill Gate, near Dulton; and the Zealand to Witton Castle, near Bishop Auckland.

There is unlikely to be any more racing at Mollington after the current season, even though fences have been rebuilt and a lot of money has been spent on the course since last year. This would mean that the Bicester and Warden Hill, the Warwickshire and the Clifton-on-Teme, which moved from Mollington to Weston Park last year, would have to find new venues in 1985.

An important change in the Jockey Club Regulations for 1984 lays down that mares of six years of age and upwards will receive a weight allowance of 5lb in all point-to-point races as already applies under N.H. Rules. (Five-year-old mares, which already receive the 7lb age allowance, may not claim the extra 5lb). Connections of top-class mares such as Corbiere, Brian Bee's, Highgate Lady, Housemistress and Swift Wood, are certainly sitting pretty.

Point-to-point fixtures for 1984

By Ian Reid

Apart from the sponsorships already reported (Audi, Land Rover, Diners Club International, the RMC Group and Buchanan's Whisky), Massey-Ferguson are continuing to sponsor their maiden championship, with 34 maiden races qualifying the first three for the Massey-Ferguson Gold Cup at Worcester on May 23.

Another big point-to-point supporter, Sam Tractors, are sponsoring 26 races as well as a £4,000 novice hunter chase a Saturday on May 18. The BritAg Ladies' championship, a new name for the Albright and Wilson series - BritAg is the firm's fertiliser concern - will have 31 qualifying races and will be run at the Melton Hunt Club meeting at Garthorpe on May 19.

We have two annuals to choose from this year. *Hunter Chasers* and *Point-to-pointers* 1984 (£13, IPC Magazines Ltd.), is now edited and compiled by Michael Williams. If you want the format you have come to expect, with sometimes hard to catch, it is one of the gems from a past year - you will need to send for *Point-to-pointers* and *Hunter Chasers* 1984 (£14, Mackenzie & Selby).

For those who wish to compile their own form books as the season wears on, the annual review of 1983 includes a highly controversial attack on the Buchanan members' race over natural course. For their own firms books as the season wears on, the annual review of 1983 includes a highly controversial attack on the Buchanan members' race over natural course. For their own firms books as the season wears on, the annual review of 1983 includes a highly controversial attack on the Buchanan members' race over natural course.

FEBRUARY

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MARCH

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Then Investors in Industry would like to hear from you. We need a new recruit for our Legal Department in central London.

Please write or telephone for further details and an application form to Jo Dean, Personnel Department, Investors in Industry plc, 91 Waterloo Road, London SE1 8XP. Telephone 01-928 7822.

3i Investors in Industry

Solicitor for Development Work

This firm of commercial Solicitors with major property clients wishes to appoint an assistant for a Partner specialising in development projects.

The ideal applicant will be young and ambitious and will have up to 2 years post-qualification conveyancing experience in private practice, industry or local Government.

The successful applicant will gain first class experience in planning, infrastructure, taxation and construction aspects of development law. A competitive remuneration package will be negotiable according to age and experience.

Please apply initially, with a full c.v., to: Mrs Maureen Jones, Denning House, 30 Chancery Lane, London, WC2 1EU. Or by telephoning 01-242 1212.

Denton Hall and Burgin

Commercial Solicitor

£14000 - £19000 per annum

Our client, a major UK corporation based in Central London, requires a Solicitor with at least 5 years post-admission experience in private practice or industry to work in the Legal Division.

The person appointed will deal with general commercial transactions including major contracts for the purchase of plant and equipment, joint venture agreements in the UK and abroad, and intellectual property licensing.

Experience of negotiating contracts in industry or of advising on contract negotiations in private practice, or alternatively experience of commercial litigation would be the most relevant background for this position.

Applications stating age, qualifications, experience, present position and salary should be sent to Ray Diamond, by 22 February 1984. Quoting Ref. T7789.

GERRARDS

Gerrards Recruitment Services
37 Chapel Side, Moscow Road, London W2 4LJ.

Intellectual Property Lawyer

Bird & Bird wish to recruit an able and energetic lawyer to join their Intellectual Property Department. The successful applicant will be handling substantial litigation in the field of patents, trade marks and copyright and previous experience in this field, or in commercial litigation, plus the ability to understand scientific and technical matters is essential.

The work is demanding and candidates must be enthusiastic and prepared to work as part of a team.

Please apply with full C.V. and quoting reference 11 to

BIRD & BIRD
2 Gray's Inn Square
London WC1R 5AF

BRIGHTON DONNE MILEHAM & HADDOCK

Old established firm with large and expanding company commercial practice.
SOLICITOR, London trained, 1-3 years London experience required to act as personal assistant to Senior Partner for up to two years and thereafter as member of team.
Partnership prospects. Salary according to experience.
Send full CV to Ref 19, Donne Mileham & Haddock, 42 Frederick Place, Brighton BN1 1AT

Legal Manager Saudi Arabia

Yusuf Bin Ahmed Kanoo have an impressive growth record in Shipping, Clearing and Forwarding, Insurance, Travel and Manufacturers Agencies. We employ over 3,000 people in operating companies throughout Saudi Arabia and the Gulf.

Our Company operates from locations in the Western, Central and Eastern Provinces of Saudi Arabia where the appointment is based at Dammam. The Legal Manager is responsible to the Group Legal Manager for the provision of a full range of legal advice to the Management of the Company in Saudi Arabia with emphasis on drafting of documentation and the establishment of companies. The majority of legal work is based on Common Law.

We are looking for a UK or Irish qualified lawyer preferably a bachelor in his late twenties or early thirties who has had experience in advising senior management of commercial companies. This appointment provides an excellent opportunity to gain experience in and develop specialised knowledge of the Middle Eastern legal environment. The terms of employment are exceptionally attractive and should enable the successful applicant to accumulate capital in a currently personal tax free country. These terms include:

- A basic salary and area allowance of SR 123,600 (SR1 currently approximates £0.20)
- Free furnished airconditioned accommodation and services
- Company car
- Six weeks annual leave with free air passage
- Free medical facilities
- Generous Education allowances
- Provident Fund

Interviews will be held in London. Initially, interested candidates are asked to write with brief personal and career details to:



Group Legal Manager
Kanoo Group Limited
1 Balfour Place
London W1Y 5RH

Yusuf Bin Ahmed Kanoo

INGLEDEW BOTTERELL ROCHE & PYBUS

Two solicitors required for the following vacancies:

1. COMMERCIAL LITIGATION:

We are looking for a newly qualified solicitor with a good academic background and an interest in dealing with substantial litigation matters, including building and property related litigation.

2. SHIPPING:

We are looking for a solicitor or barrister having a good academic record and with interest and enthusiasm for the subject. A knowledge of charter-party and bill of lading law is desirable but not essential.

Please write with full curriculum vitae to:

J. J. MOFFATT
Ingledew Botterell Roche & Pybus
Milburn House
Dean Street, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 1NP
Tel: (0632) 611661

WILTSHIRE - SWINDON

General practice in Swindon urgently requires a young Solicitor who must be a genuine "all rounder" but able to undertake litigation (including matrimonial and advocacy). There are genuine prospects after a trial period and the post would particularly suit someone with perhaps a young family looking to secure their professional and family future.

Full C.V. to:

PHILIPS & LAWRENCE
of The Square, Ramsbury,
Marlborough, Wilts SN8 (ref. DR)

HIGHFIELDS AND BELGRAVE LAW CENTRE

The Highfields and Belgrave Law Centre based in Leicester wish to appoint:
A SOLICITOR (PQ1) - £9,945 to £11,000
TWO CASEWORKERS (SQ1) - £9,060 to £9,560
to work and specialise in two or more of the following areas of Social Welfare Law:
HOUSING, IMMIGRATION & NATIONALITY, LEGAL, CIVIL, RIGHTS, EMPLOYMENT, WELFARE RIGHTS, EDUCATION and relevant areas of Criminal Law and Tribunal and Appeals representation.
An ability to work in a multi-cultural setting is essential and Asian languages an advantage.
For details and job description contact: Karna Achary or Raminder Minhas, Highfields and Belgrave Law Centre, 6 Seymour Street, LEICESTER LE2 0LB Tel: (0533) 552229 (10.30 am to 5.30 pm) CLOSING DATE: First post 7th March 1984.

Property Lawyers

More Conveyancers need not apply

We are keen to recruit at least one solicitor with about two years admitted experience who is sufficiently flexible to handle all aspects of commercial property work. The mix of work will be such that the successful applicant will be expected to work on complicated and substantial jobs, at times on his/her own and at other times in close liaison with some of our more demanding Partners in this field.

Salary will depend on experience, ability and enthusiasm for the subject but will not, we think, disappoint you.

Please apply in writing to R.R. Phillips, Lovell, White & King, 21 Holborn Viaduct, London EC1A 2DY, with full curriculum vitae.

Lovell, White & King

LEGAL EXECUTIVE IN INDUSTRY

WEMBLEY, MIDDLESEX C. £11,000

Amoco (U.K.) Limited is the British refining and marketing subsidiary of the Standard Oil Company (Indiana). Their legal department conducts a wide variety of commercial business and has a vacancy for a young Legal Executive.

The successful candidate will report to the Legal Adviser, a Solicitor, and will handle principally conveyancing and the legal aspects of property management relating to a network of service stations, distribution depots and a refinery.

Preferably candidates should be Fellows of the Institute of Legal Executives.

Salary circa £11,000 plus LV's, four weeks' paid holiday and pension scheme.

Reply with c.v. to:
Mr. F.B.M. Reynolds,
Senior Employee Relations
Adviser, 1 Olympic Way,
Wembley, Middlesex HA9 0ND.
Telephone 01-902 8820.



Young Solicitor

for a challenging commercial environment
• near Heathrow • Company Car

Our client is a major British public company with extensive interests in the construction materials industry and with a commitment to diversification into new and expanding markets.

The person appointed will join a small legal department based at the Company's Head Office. Main duties will embrace property and related commercial matters including conveyancing and some specialised planning. This is not a remote head office position but one which will involve close working relationships with senior management and identification with the Company's varied activities.

The successful applicant will preferably be a graduate with about 3 years post qualifying experience within industry/ commerce or in a commercially

orientated practice and who has acquired a particular interest in commercial conveyancing. Additionally our clients will be seeking someone with the necessary personal skills and maturity to develop good working relationships and to assume early responsibility.

The salary and benefits package is attractive and assistance towards relocation costs will be provided where appropriate.

Write with brief personal details and current salary to the address below, quoting ref: A8900/T on the envelope. Your application will be forwarded to the client unopened, unless marked for the attention of our Security Manager with a note of companies to which it should not be sent.

PA

PA Advertising

Hyde Park House, 60a Knightsbridge, London SW1X 7LE.
Tel: 01-235 6060 Telex: 27874

Commercial Conveyancing

We wish to recruit an assistant solicitor to the commercial section of our conveyancing department. The successful applicant will have been admitted for not less than 2 years and may well have been specialising in property matters in a large city firm.

Initiative and an ability to give effective and practical advice are important as are an energetic approach and a commitment to strengthen and develop this side of our practice.

We shall offer a competitive salary with attractive fringe benefits.

Please write in confidence with full curriculum vitae to our Staff Partner, John Skelton, at:

WITHERS 20 Essex Street,
London WC2R 3AL

PRIVATE PRACTICE

LONDON	
PERSONAL TAX	£18,000 AAE
Small City Practice seek sol. 2-4 yrs, qualified. Certain equity prospects.	
SUPPLYMENT LAW	City £12,000
Major Practice require sol. 1-2 yrs adm. to specialise.	
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY	City £11,000
Young newly admitted with Science degree for well known practice.	
COMMERCIAL	City £neg.
Corporate finance banking, suit sol. 3-5 yrs adm.	
CASUAL CONVEYANCING	W/End £15,000
Leading Practice need sol. 1-3 yrs admitted. Healthy future.	
OUT OF LONDON	
LITIGATION	Major practice require sol. for civil litigation £10,000 AAE
LITIGATION	Quality and fit. inc. commercial. Unbridge £10,000 AAE
Excellent prospects within progressive practice.	
PROBATE TRUST & TAX	Guidford £neg.
New creation, major suit London sol. seeking full equity p.ship.	
PROBATE/CONVEYANCING	SW London £neg.
Major practice in area, certain prospects, quality work.	

**Personnel
Appointments**

85 ALDWYCH, LONDON WC2R 4JF
Tel: 01-583 1251 (24 hrs)

LITIGATION SOLICITOR HONG KONG

Leading Hong Kong Solicitors wish to recruit an Assistant Solicitor with one or more years' experience in general civil litigation for their Litigation Department. The successful applicant will be expected to be able to handle all forms of contentious work including advocacy.
Included in the employment package is a generous housing allowance and annual holidays with air fares. Salaries are competitive and take into account age and experience. Interviews will take place in London during March. Apply with full CV and telephone number to

BOX 2227H
THE TIMES

Conveyancing

Reynolds Porter Chamberlain

Seek an able conveyancer with about 2 years experience. A positive approach allied to the desire and ability to provide a first class service to our clients is essential.

The successful applicant will deal with domestic conveyancing and business lettings with minimum supervision.

Starting salary will be at market rates.

Applicants should write with full CV to:

Colin P Ellis Esq.,
Partnership Secretary,
Chichester House,
278/282 High Holborn,
London, WC1 VHA

LITIGATION Assistant Solicitor

Challenging opportunities exist in our Litigation and Construction Department for solicitors with 2/3 years post qualification experience. Successful applicants will have a sound academic background and are likely to have gained post admission experience in substantial commercial litigation working as part of a team of lawyers assigned to look after the interests of large corporate clients. An ability to speak one or more foreign languages fluently will be an advantage. The opportunity may arise for successful applicants to spend some time abroad in one of the firm's foreign offices.

Please write with full details to G. A. Bowles

McKenna & Co

INVERKES HOUSE, 1 ALDWYCH LONDON WC2R 4JF

COMMERCIAL SOLICITORS

We are a young, expanding two-partner commercial practice. We are looking for highly competent, ambitious and hardworking solicitors, aged preferably between 28 and 38, with substantial experience in company/commercial law and/or commercial conveyancing, as potential equity partners. Earnings will reflect ability and fee-earning capacity. Please reply in confidence to:

P E Faber Esq.,
P E Faber & Co.,
61 Chapside,
LONDON EC2V 8AX

Legal Appointments

LAWYERS

The widest range of career options

The Government Legal Service offers careers which encompass all aspects of the law. Whether in an advisory or decision-making role, or in general legal work or a specialised area, lawyers can both gain invaluable experience and attain high levels of responsibility at an early stage.

Opportunities now exist in the following areas:

ADVISORY

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food—1 post
The Legal Department provides a comprehensive legal service to the Ministry. Particular topics covered include Common Agricultural Policy, food, animal health and welfare, agricultural tenancy and the environmental aspects of farming. In line with MAFF's status as a leading European Department, this post will be mainly concerned with tendering advice on EEC law and litigation in the European Court.

Department of the Environment—4 posts
Beyond the interpretation of legislation, lawyers handle an exceptional variety of intellectually stimulating work. This can include tendering advice to Ministers and officials, mastering and interpreting complex legislation and objectively reviewing any wider legal issues that a case may raise.

Department of Health and Social Security—4 posts
In addition to providing a general advisory service, the Solicitors Office is involved in both home and EEC legislation relating to social security, health and welfare services and medicines. These posts could initially involve dealing with civil litigation and advising upon the conduct of cases before social security tribunals.

Home Office—1 post
The Legal Adviser's Branch provides advice on a wide variety of legal topics including legislation and assists in the preparation and drafting of Bills. Statutory Instruments and other legal documents. A sound understanding of jurisprudence and common law is essential.

Departments of Trade and Industry—2 posts
In providing a comprehensive legal service to both the Department and the Export Credits Guarantee Department, lawyers are faced with a wide range of tasks involving, for example, general advisory work and negotiations concerning commercial, administrative, domestic, EEC and international law. Much substantive and regulatory law in the commercial field is covered, relating to both nationalised and private industries. These posts involve overseas travel.

ADVISORY AND LITIGATION

Inland Revenue—3 posts
These posts are in the Solicitor's Office which handles a wide range of legal work.

Lawyers tender advice in respect of taxes and rating valuations, conduct litigation and inspect counsel in the superior courts, and prepare cases for appeal tribunals and the lower courts. Experience in advocacy would be advantageous.

Unless otherwise stated, all posts are based in London. All candidates must be admitted (or about to be) called in England and have recent relevant practical experience. Appointments are at Legal Assistant level or, for candidates aged at least 27 and of marked ability and potential, Senior Legal Assistant.

ADVISORY/CIVIL LITIGATION

Treasury Solicitor's Department—3 posts

One of the largest legal departments in the world, the Treasury Solicitor's Department acts as Legal Adviser to most government departments and other government agencies. Lawyers deal with an immense variety of issues covering contracts, intellectual property and trusts, together with litigation in the High Court and the House of Lords. They also conduct cases at the Court of the European Community, present evidence in major public enquiries, and represent departments at other inquiries and tribunals.

CONVEYANCING

HM Land Registry—3-4 posts
London, Durham, Nottingham and, possibly, Weymouth. The regional posts involve the examination of the more complex titles on first registration and advising on questions of law arising from dealings with registered land. A knowledge of conveyancing is required together with an interest in Real Property Law.

The London post calls for some knowledge of conveyancing, but also some experience of litigation and the ability to do advisory work arising from new or proposed legislation on land registration practice and the successful candidate will be a good all-round lawyer.

GENERAL

Lord Chancellor's Department—2 posts
Lawyers are involved in every aspect of the Court of Appeal Criminal Division. Tasks range across preparing summaries of cases, undertaking research, recording decisions, and tendering advice when necessary.

Welsh Office—1 post—Cardiff
The Health Service, conveyancing and litigation, and the provision of advice on education, housing, local government, transport and highways, are all topics covered by lawyers in the Welsh Office. This post has initial responsibility for litigation on behalf of the District Health Authority in Wales, but may involve wider legal issues in due course.

PROSECUTION

HM Customs and Excise—4 posts
Lawyers advise on and conduct criminal proceedings in Magistrates' Courts in England and Wales and prosecute in Crown Courts. These posts will initially involve dealing with criminal cases, but may later involve civil litigation and general advisory work.

Department of The Director of Public Prosecutions—3 posts
Lawyers who work in small regional teams, advise on criminal matters, prepare cases for commitment to Crown Courts and are involved in advocacy at Magistrates' Courts in England and Wales. Experience in criminal work would be advantageous. Some travel involved.

Senior Legal Assistant—£15,065-£20,565, according to age, qualifications and experience. Promotion prospects to £24,000 and above.
Salaries for posts outside London £12,250 less.
For further details and an application form (to be returned by 24 February 1984) write to Civil Service Commission, Alcon Link, Basingstoke, Hants, RG21 1JB, or telephone Basingstoke (0256) 68551 (answering service operates outside office hours). Please quote ref: G/15763.

Young Joint-Venture Lawyer

Join an active oil company

Total Oil Marine is a substantial North Sea operator supplying nearly 40% of the UK's natural gas. A wholly-owned subsidiary of a major French energy group, we are committed to an expanding programme of offshore activity and are currently developing the Alwyn North field. You will join the small legal department based at our headquarters in London and be responsible for a wide range of joint-venture agreements, and for advising on exploration, development and production activities. Some travel within the UK and Europe will be involved. A young, ambitious lawyer with at least 12 months' post-qualification experience, a first-class track

record, the potential to develop rapidly, you will have been working in either the legal department of a company in the upstream oil industry or the commercial department of an established private practice. You will enjoy a competitive, index-linked salary plus a comprehensive range of benefits, and will have every opportunity to advance your career with a respected and dynamic company. In the first instance, please telephone or write with cv to Sue Jagger, Cripps, Sears and Associates Limited, (Personnel Consultants), 88-89 High Holborn, London WC1V 6LH. Telephone: 01-404 5701.

Total Oil Marine

Bringing energy ashore

Legal Professionals in International Banking

London Base

The Royal Bank of Canada is Canada's leading bank and the fourth largest in North America with financial interests in over 100 subsidiaries and affiliates throughout the world. Currently we are seeking qualified and experienced lawyers to augment our well-established and highly professional Group Law Department providing legal services in the areas of International and Merchant Banking for the Group. The successful candidates will join a team involved in demanding but very interesting work and should be able to make a significant contribution to some of its areas of activity which include the drafting and negotiation of international lending documentation and other capital and international finance market instruments.

Ideally you will be a qualified solicitor with up to three years post-qualification experience with a firm of City Solicitors, an international bank or similar institution. General banking experience in retail and merchant banking, leasing, ship finance and project finance, which are also areas of the Department's work, would be a distinct advantage.

As well as an excellent career opportunity, we offer a first class remuneration package including non-contributory pension, mortgage subsidy arrangements and health insurance.

Please write in confidence, enclosing career details to: The Senior Legal Adviser, The Royal Bank of Canada, Group Law Department, Plasterers Court, 1 London Wall, London EC2Y 5JX.



THE ROYAL BANK OF CANADA

LEGAL ASSISTANT

c. £9,500 - S.W. London

A superb opportunity has arisen to progress with a well known international Computer Software company. Working for a charming new lawyer you need initially some secretarial skills (30/50 wpm, minimum of 2 A's) and some experience. This position offers scope and involvement for an enthusiastic person with some legal experience.

Age 25-33.
Ring 434 512
Crone Corkill
Recruitment Consultants

LOCUM SOLICITORS

We are a team of solicitors legal executives and trainees who are available for locum work in the country for emergencies such as illness, holiday, sickness, etc. We are seeking permanent posts and locum work in the country. We are based in London and have a large number of clients. Contact for details and terms should ring.

01-623 5725
ASA LAW
202 Bishopsgate, EC2
LOCUM AND
PERMANENT APPOINTMENTS
FOR SOLICITORS

TWICKENHAM Solicitor with all round ability, two to three years experience needed. New firm. Partner's firm primarily for family and civil and criminal work. Working with other types of work. Projects for first person. Office with 2 staff. Salary £12,000. 120, Maryport Road, Twickenham, TW1 6EN (reference 1043).

CORPORATE TAX SOLICITOR, two years post-qualification, preferably in the City. £14,000 neg. 0922 713270.

CONVEYANCING Young non-admitted person for West Country, Oxford and Hampshire appointments. West Consultants 0936-26183.

MATERNITY SPECIALISTS Non-admitted/qualified solicitors for Hampshire small town firm. West Consultants 0936-26183.

MATURE CONVEYANCER 30-55 for West Country West Country. West Consultants 0936-26183.

HM Diplomatic Service

Barrister or Solicitor

There are currently two opportunities to join the legal staff. The work of an Assistant Legal Adviser is varied and highly responsible. It includes dealing with questions of international and European Community law, drafting of agreements and legislation, conducting negotiations with other governments and international organisations and the handling of human rights cases. On the Commonwealth side, work involves advising on constitutional law and dealing with administrative questions concerning overseas dependent territories. Legal staff are based in London but have frequent opportunities of overseas travel. They may also serve a tour of duty in one of HM Missions overseas and advise delegations at international meetings and conferences.

Candidates must be qualified as advocates, barristers or solicitors, preferably with experience of legal practice or legal research. Reasonable knowledge of French and/or another widely used European language would be advantageous.

Salary starting at £9,060 at age 22 to £11,680 at age 32 or over, and rising to £14,770. Promotion (and salary) range £15,650 - £20,565 could come as early as age 27.

For further details and an application form (to be returned by 28 February 1984) write to Civil Service Commission, Alcon Link, Basingstoke, Hants, RG21 1JB, or telephone Basingstoke (0256) 68551 (answering service operates outside office hours). Please quote ref: G/6162.

Hoggett Bowers

Executive Selection Consultants

BIRMINGHAM, CARDIFF, GLASGOW, LEEDS, LONDON, MANCHESTER, NEWCASTLE and SHEFFIELD

Young Commercial Lawyer

NEI plc
Newcastle-upon-Tyne

Our client is Northern Engineering Industries plc, an international power engineering group with a turnover of £850 million and a workforce of some 33,000 people. The Group wishes to appoint to its Head Office legal department a young commercial lawyer, reporting to the Group Solicitor, to operate mainly in support of the UK trading companies and the Group's expanding international business. The role will cover a broad range of legal and commercial matters with an emphasis on drafting, negotiating and advising on all types of commercial agreements and contract claims. Applicants probably in their mid 20's should be Solicitors or Barristers with 2 years' relevant post qualification experience in industry, commerce or private practice. They must be prepared to work under pressure in a demanding environment and develop rapidly their ability to guide, advise and represent senior operational management. Salary and benefits are excellent and there are distinct prospects of significant early development for an outstanding candidate.

G.T. Walker, Ref: 42493/T. Male or female candidates should telephone in confidence for a Personal History Form 0632-327455, 4 Mosley Street, NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE, NE1 1DE.

Taxation

We are an international firm of chartered accountants with offices throughout the UK.

Exciting opportunities exist at all levels for enthusiastic and ambitious barristers and solicitors to continue their careers in taxation within our expanding tax practice, which now numbers over 300. Progression within the firm can be rapid with promotion to Partner status possible in your early thirties.

In addition, we have openings for graduates with an interest in taxation to train in our tax department and qualify as chartered accountants.

Please apply in writing with a full cv. to Martin McLellan,

Coopers & Lybrand

Abacus House
Gutter Lane
Cheapside
London EC2V 8AH

Barrister or Solicitor

Babcock International plc, a leading engineering group with diverse United Kingdom and overseas interests, is seeking a lawyer with a minimum of 2 years industrial experience to join its Legal Department. The Department, located at the group head office in the West End of London, handles a wide range of legal responsibilities including drafting, negotiating and advising on contracts and licensing agreements, and provides a general legal service to group companies.

Competitive starting salary will be related to age and experience. There is a contributory pension scheme and travel within the United Kingdom will be involved.

Please telephone or write for an application form to:

Mrs. J.A. Deans,
Babcock International plc.,
Cleveland House,
St. James's Square,
London SW1Y 4LN.
Telephone 01-930 9766 Ext. 271.

Babcock International plc

Hoggett Bowers

Executive Selection Consultants

BIRMINGHAM, CARDIFF, GLASGOW, LEEDS, LONDON, MANCHESTER, NEWCASTLE and SHEFFIELD

Solicitor-Manager Designate

Midlands Market Town, c.£16,000 + car + first class partnership prospects

The client is a well established Midlands based firm with offices throughout England. Steady expansion has now created the need for a qualified solicitor to join a busy office in a thriving market town with a view to assuming the management responsibility within a relatively short period. Business is broadly based covering a large area with emphasis on commercial and domestic conveyancing and significant involvement with the Local Authority. Applicants should have in the region of 10 years' general experience, which must include conveyancing, and ideally have knowledge of Local Government Law. Prospects of partnership within this forward thinking and progressive practice are excellent.

E. Sutton, Ref: 17245/T. Male or female candidates should telephone in confidence for a Personal History Form 01-734-6852, Sutherland House, 5/6 Argyll Street, LONDON, W1E 8EZ.

Computer Appointments

UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW
COMPUTING SERVICE
SYSTEMS PROGRAMMER

Applications are invited for a Systems Programmer to work in the Mainframe/Time-sharing section of the Central Computing Facilities Division of the University's Computing Service. To be concerned primarily with maintenance of the VME operating system running on an ICL 2068 computer.

Applicants should be in the possession of a good Honours Degree for computer science and previous experience of the ICL VME (or VME/31) operating system would be an advantage. The appointment will be made on Grade 1A of the national Office Related Staff scale, currently in the range from £7,190-£11,615 per annum.

Further particulars may be obtained from the Academic Personnel Office, University of Glasgow, Glasgow, G12 8QQ, where applications (3 copies, giving the name and address of three referees, should be lodged on or before 24th February 1984).

In reply please quote Ref No 0190C.

also on page 20

MICHAEL FREEMAN & CO

Require a solicitor for their Company Commercial Department. Applicants should have at least 2 years post qualification experience in this field and be prepared to work under pressure in a busy department.

Please reply with full CV to:
A G Richards,
1 Great Cumberland Place,
London, W1H 7AL

SIMMONDS CHURCH RACKHAM

have an immediate vacancy for an assistant Solicitor with a view to early Partnership in their Trust Department. Age range 25-28 preferred, with an interest in trusts and conveyancing. Salary by arrangement.

Apply with CV to Ref PAH at 13 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4BU.

Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Dear

BBC 1

6.00 Cee-fax AM, News headlines, weather, traffic and sports bulletins. Also available to viewers with television sets without the teletext facility.

6.30 Breakfast Time with Frank Bough and Selma Scott. News from Debbie Rox at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30; regional news, weather and traffic at 6.45, 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15; David Whalley's television preview at 6.55; a review of the morning papers at 7.15 and 8.15; exercises at 7.25; horoscopes at 8.30; and Glynis Christian's cookery column and Alison Mitchell's money matters both between 8.30 and 8.40.

9.00 The Craft of the Potter. Part three of Michael Casson's series deals with decorating (r. 9.25 Cee-fax, 10.30 Play School (r) 10.55 Cee-fax).

12.30 News After Noon with Richard Whitmore and Frances Cornerfield. The weather. Prospects come from Ian McCaslin. 12.57 Regional news (London and SE only). Financial report followed by news headlines with subtitles. 1.00 Pebble Mill at One. Music and conversation from the tower of the Birmingham studios. 1.45 Check-a-Block. A See-Saw programme for the very young (r).

2.00 Film: Vigil in the Night (1940) starring Carole Lombard. Drama based on the A. J. Cronin novel about a nurse working in an English provincial hospital who takes the blame when her sister, a nurse at the same hospital, makes an error of judgment that is the cause of a child's death. Directed by George Stevens. 3.30 Cartoon Double Bill. 3.45 Regional news (not London).

3.50 Magic Roundabout (r) 3.55 Play School, presented by Sheelagh Gilbey. 4.20 The Adventures of Tintin. Episode two of the animated series. 4.25 Tootle-The Story of a Doll's House. Part two. 4.40 Jigsaw. 5.05 John Craven's Newsround 5.10 Grange Hill. Episode 11 of the Saturday school drama and the day of the sponsored walk arrives.

5.40 Sixty Minutes includes news from Moira Stuart at 5.40; weather at 5.44; national news magazines at 5.55; and news headlines at 6.38.

6.40 Herts. Among Russell Hart's guests tonight are film actress Britt Eklund, Gerard Kenny and Matt Bianco.

7.40 A Question of Sport. Bill Besant and Emyr Hughes lead their respective teams in a test of sporting knowledge.

8.10 Dallas. Sue Ellen is mistaken for Patricia Montoya; Catherine ends up in J. R.'s power; Miss Ellie and Clayton plan a premarriage holiday in Paris; while Mark mysteriously ends up in hospital.

9.00 News with John Humphrys.

9.25 Show Business Awards. The Variety Club of Great Britain's annual awards ceremony introduced from London's Hilton International Hotel by Terry Wogan and Ray Moore.

10.15 The XIV Winter Olympic Games. A preview of the games which open tomorrow in Sarajevo, Yugoslavia.

10.50 Cup Soccer Special.

11.20 The Rockford Files: The Girl in the Bay City Boys' Club. Someone becomes suspicious about a seemingly straightforward case of cards at a local youth club. Detective Jim receives a shock when he discovers how much is at stake. Starring James Garner (r).

12.10 Weather.

tv-am

6.25 Good Morning Britain presented by Nick Owen and Anne Diamond. News from Gordon Honeycombe at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and 9.00; sport at 8.35 and 9.05; alarm call at 8.40 and 9.45; exercises at 8.50 and 9.15; the day's odd anniversaries at 9.05 and 9.08; a guest in the Spotlight at 9.20; cartoon at 9.25; guest of the day at 9.40; pop at 9.50; inside a celebrity's house at 8.15; holiday advice at 8.20; video report at 8.35; and baby talk at 9.05.

ITV/LONDON

9.25 Thames news headlines 9.30 For Schools: Elementary Arithmetic. 9.45 London and the River Thames. 10.44 A young boy sends his grandmother a card 10.21 German conversation 10.43 Evolution: Relationships 11.08 A little girl and her mother buy a pet 11.25 Bananas 11.30 Play: The Watched, by Christopher Priest.

12.00 Cockleshell Bay. Seaside adventures of the Cockle twins 12.10 Rainbow with guest, magician, Ali Bongo (r) 12.30 The Sullivan. Drama serial about an Australian family during World War Two.

1.00 News with Leonard Parkin 1.20 Thames news 1.30 A Plus 2.00 Court Court Dirty Washing. A nurse is accused of milking patient during a strike at a hospital. The injuries to a passenger in a car caused by her, were the result of an accident, she claims.

2.30 Comedy Tonight. Comedians reminisce about their earliest performances 3.00 Mr and Mrs. Quiz game for married couples 3.30 Miracles Take Longer. Drama serial set in a community advice centre.

4.00 Cockleshell Bay. A repeat of the programme shown at noon 4.15 Bantam. Animated adventure of a lion's life 4.20 On Safari. Fun and games in a studio jungle with Christopher Biggins and guests. 4.45 James and Brian Jacks 4.45 CBT News, views and ideas for young people 5.15 Emmerdale Farm Dolly Skilbeck tries to help a friend with a handicapped daughter.

5.45 News. 6.00 Thames news. 6.20 Help Community action news from Viv Taylor Gae. 6.30 Crossroads. Lisa Walters is talked into a date by Colin Sands.

6.55 Reporting London, presented by Michael Barratt includes and investigation into the BMA's report on the health hazards of boxing.

7.30 Film: More Than Murder (1983) A made-for-television thriller starring Stacy Keach as detective Mike Hammer. His best friend is suspended from the police force after cocaine was found in his car while he was working on a drugs case. Hammer determines to clear his friend's name. Directed by Gary Nelson.

9.00 The Jewel in the Crown. Episode six. In Parton, Susan learns of Teddie's death from Sarah who, in turn, begins a journey to bring comfort to an injured man.

10.00 News. 10.10 First Tuesday Jonathan Dimbleby and Jane Walsley introduce three films - The Town That Builds the Bomb; Survivors of the Kwai; and Heavy Metal (see Choice).

11.30 Lewkes Man Episode one of a new series about a man's search for his archaeological father, missing in Greece. Starring Robert Coleby.

12.25 Night Thoughts from Canon Peter Chaffin, senior chaplain of the South London Industrial Mission.



Wendy Morgan as Susan Bingham: Jewel in the Crown (ITV 9.00pm)

BBC 2

7.20 Open University: Science - the Planet Earth. Ends at 7.45. 8.55 Daytime on Two: Part four of the six-part series tracing the evolution of the modern symphony orchestra. 9.20 Modern History: June 1940 - Britain alone. 9.48 Martha: Self-taught symphony. 10.10 Part four of the story of The Boy from Space. 10.35 How Glasgow has been redeveloped since World War Two. 11.00 Watch 11.17 Life in a rural community, stricken by drought, in north-east Brazil. 11.40 Castles.

12.03 Programme four of David Bellamy's eight-part exploration of North America's botanical history. 12.35 Modern Day Japan. 1.05 Geometry for adults studying for C-levels. 1.18 Science: Fertilisation in plants and animals. 1.40 What Am I Made Of? 2.00 You and Me. 2.15 Tin mining. 2.40 Figure drawing.

3.00 World Bowls: The first day's play in the Embassy World Bowls Championship. This afternoon's game is between the defending champion, Bob Sunderland of Scotland, and Sammy Allen from Northern Ireland.

5.35 News summary with subtitles. 5.40 The Discovery of Antisocial Behaviour. Part five of the award-winning series features items on bees that cannot discern the colour red; on Konrad Lorenz who became a surrogate mother to a family of geese; and on Nico Tinbergen who devised tests which revealed how birds and fish talk to each other (r).

6.35 Top Priority. An animated film produced by the National Film Board of Canada. 6.45 Tucker's Luck. Alan feels like a gooseberry when he is the only one without a girlfriend (r).

7.10 Travelers in Time: Pearls and Savages. A film, made in 1921 of an expedition to the island of Papua, at the time inhabited by savages (r).

7.40 Play: Only by David Cook. The story of a young boy's first experience of death is drowned. 8.10 Chronicle: On the Waterfront. A documentary about the excavation of Billingsgate Fish Market (see Choice).

9.00 Alex Smith and James. Comic sketches from Mel Smith and Griff Rhys Jones and their team. 9.30 Your Life in Their Hands. Birmingham postman John Devonshire prepares for an operation under John Pearce, ophthalmic surgeon at Stomogrove General Hospital, to restore his sight.

10.00 World Bowls. Highlights of first round matches in the Embassy World Indoor Championship. 10.30 Newsnight.

11.15 World Bowls. More highlights of the action from Coatbridge, ends at 12.00.

CHOICE

Yshire Television's justly popular monthly series FIRST TUESDAY (TV 10.30pm) features three films in tonight's edition. Heavy Metal, the shortest, is perhaps the most disturbing. It is an American-made investigation into the big business of selling automatic machine guns to private citizens in the United States. The ease by which these deadly weapons may be obtained is underlined by the statistics that there are four times as many of these weapons in private hands as in those of the police and enforcement authorities. The weapons are bought by people who believe war is fun - former GIs hankering after the good old days of Vietnam - and listening to them talk about their passion is, in some ways, the most disturbing aspect of The Day After. This latter film could not have had a milder reception from the citizens of Amarillo, the subject of The Town That Builds the Bomb. Despite boasting the world's biggest cattle auction and slaughterhouse, the Texas town's main employer is the Panflex plant that builds five nuclear warheads a day. Leading citizens voice their approval of the plant but one dissenting voice is that of the eccentric owner of the local TV station, Stanley Marsh IV, who likens the close proximity of Panflex to living on the San Andreas fault. The lingering suffering of survivors of the Thai-Burma railway is examined in Survivors of Kwai, a harrowing film that rams home the reality of the suffering inflicted on the Japanese on British prisoners-of-war and totally discredits the

CHOICE

glamorous Hollywood version of events. Five survivors of the year's ordeal are interviewed and as are embittered about bureaucratic refusal to recognise that the ill-health they have today was caused by events of 40 years ago. If the mental ordeal was not enough, doctors have now discovered that an estimated 2,000 of the survivors suffer a worm infestation that is potentially lethal.

ON THE WATERFRONT (BBC2 8.10pm) is a worthy chronicle story of the rise by archaeologists of the Museum of London to excavate the 2,000 year old site of Billingsgate Fish market before developers moved in to build the new office block. It is an enlightening exercise with layers of history being removed to reveal the past associated with the major Saxon port that was originally on the site.

Story Time: 'Atlantic City Proof' by Christopher Cook (9.20pm). The New Magazine 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather: Programme News. The Sun O'Clock News: Financial Report. 6.00 Three Men on the Bummel by Jerome K. Jerome. The performer is Jeremy Nicholas (r).

7.00 News. 7.05 The Archers. A report on health of medical research. 7.50 The Most Important 40 Minutes of My Life. The subject is the thousands of Britain's managers who lose their jobs every year. 8.20 A Tale From the South China Seas. The lives of the British in S. E. Asia in the days of the opium trade. The presenter is Barbara Myers.

10.00 News from Our Own Correspondent. 10.30 Morning Story: 'Beach Boys' by Shirley Mitchell. The reader is Yvonne Henman. 10.45 Daily Service. 11.00 News: Travel: Thirty Minute Theatre 'Roman Fever' by Edith Wharton. The play is set in holidaying in Rome, look back on their past lives. With Rosemary Leach and Maggie McCarthy (r).

11.30 World and You. 12.00 Legal, Decent, Honest and Trustful. With Martin Jarvis and Christopher Ryan. 12.25 Weather: Programme News. 1.00 The World at One News. 1.40 The Archers. 1.55 Shipping Forecast.

2.00 News: Woman's Hour. Today's edition includes a feature in which Frances Taylor takes a course to make the most of her dynamic potential. Plus the sixth instalment of The Captain and the Kings. 3.00 Afternoon Theatre: Welburn Street, by Rachel Wyatt. With Gwyneth Hearn and Lisa Ross. Mr Hagan plays the adulterous husband who starts to receive odd threats and decides that he is being blackmailed. The setting is suburban Ontario. Also taking part are Shelley Thompson, Margaret Robertson and others. 4.00 News. Just After Four. Bunking in Burrell, with Jeff Nuttall.

4.10 The Empty Quarter. Ted Edward's bid to cross southern Sahara. He provides his own commentary on the 300-mile journey, which was made on foot.

5.55 Weather. 7.00 News. 7.05 Morning Concert: Part one. Bach's Violin Concerto in A.

BBC1 WALES. 12.57pm-1.00 News of Wales headlines. 3.48-3.50 News of Wales headlines. 5.55 Wales Today. News and weather. SCOTLAND. 12.57pm-1.00 The Scottish News. 5.55 Scotland: Sixty Minutes. 6.00-6.10 News and weather. NORTHERN IRELAND. 12.57pm-1.00 Northern Ireland News. 5.55 Northern Ireland: Sixty Minutes. 6.00-6.10 News and weather. ENGLAND. 5.55pm Regional news headlines. 12.05pm Close.

SAC Starts 2.00pm Hywel At Ynys. 2.20 Flatland. 2.35 Ganri. Hon. 2.55 Interval. 3.00 Face The Press. The Mock Show. 4.00m World. 4.25 Television Scramble. 5.00 News. 5.05 Ellidwro. 5.30 Buck Rogers. 5.35 No Problem. 5.55 Gair Yn Ynys. 6.00m News. 6.10m World. 6.15m News. 6.20m World. 6.25m News. 6.30m World. 6.35m News. 6.40m World. 6.45m News. 6.50m World. 6.55m News. 7.00m World. 7.05m News. 7.10m World. 7.15m News. 7.20m World. 7.25m News. 7.30m World. 7.35m News. 7.40m World. 7.45m News. 7.50m World. 7.55m News. 8.00m World. 8.05m News. 8.10m World. 8.15m News. 8.20m World. 8.25m News. 8.30m World. 8.35m News. 8.40m World. 8.45m News. 8.50m World. 8.55m News. 9.00m World. 9.05m News. 9.10m World. 9.15m News. 9.20m World. 9.25m News. 9.30m World. 9.35m News. 9.40m World. 9.45m News. 9.50m World. 9.55m News. 10.00m World. 10.05m News. 10.10m World. 10.15m News. 10.20m World. 10.25m News. 10.30m World. 10.35m News. 10.40m World. 10.45m News. 10.50m World. 10.55m News. 11.00m World. 11.05m News. 11.10m World. 11.15m News. 11.20m World. 11.25m News. 11.30m World. 11.35m News. 11.40m 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